FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 MARCH 1984

Lebanon

Security Situation — The Security Arrangements Committee met at the French contingent's headquarters in Beirut and decided that Internal Security Forces will be stationed in positions now occupied by the contingent, Beirut radio reported. The committee also agreed that the area to be vacated by the French will be deemed "neutral" and that the road through the Museum crossing point will be kept open. Meanwhile, French forces continued their gradual withdrawal from Beirut, AFP noted.

In West Beirut all parties abided by the agreement to withdraw gunmen from the streets and allow the Internal Security Forces and the Army's 6th Brigade to maintain security, allowing shops to reopen and eliciting public "satisfaction," Beirut radio reported. However, the calm was subsequently broken by violent artillery exchanges across the contact lines between West and East Beirut, the radio noted. Voice of Lebanon radio reported that 6 people were killed and 30 others wounded in the eastern sector by the shelling, which it claimed was instigated by gunmen in West Beirut and the southern suburb. On the other hand, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio accused the Christian side of attempting to advance under cover of mortar and tank fire.

Threat to Junblatt; NSF Role — The Islamic Jihad organization holds Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt fully responsible for the "humiliation" of Muslims in West Beirut and considers him an "agent" of Israel, an anonymous caller told a news agency in remarks reported by Radio Monte Carlo. Junblatt and his forces should withdraw from Beirut immediately, the caller warned, and Muslims who do not resign from the PSP before 30 April will be "executed." Meanwhile, the Voice of Lebanon held PSP forces responsible for a number of recent kidnappings in West Beirut. As for the National Salvation Front (NSF), Junblatt denied that he is seeking to replace it with a new opposition group, asserting that its institutions will remain effective and active, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

Political Developments — Sources close to the government expect President Amin al-Jumayyil to convene the Higher Security-Political Committee within 48 hours, Beirut radio announced on 27 March. The radio also cited reports from Damascus calling recent talks between Al-Jumayyil's personal envoy and Syrian leaders "encouraging." Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad affirmed in a *TIME* interview broadcast by Damascus television that Syria will "completely" support a national unity government stemming from national accord and will respond "without hesitation" to its request for a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon after Israel's withdrawal.

Jordan

Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip received a "warm official reception" on their 26 March arrival for a visit to Jordan at King Husayn's invitation, Amman radio announced. Commenting on the Palestinian "tragedy" in a dinner speech reported by Amman television, the queen said that her government will continue to "support all constructive efforts to achieve a peaceful, just, and lasting solution" to this problem in accordance with UN principles.

Iraqi-Egyptian Relations

Egypt "fully supports" Iraq and will "not hesitate to offer any military aid requested" by it, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali announced in a 26 March press conference reported by INA. Egypt also intends to begin a "new diplomatic move" with nonaligned countries to reach a formula for ending the Iraq-Iran war, 'Ali stated. Before leaving Baghdad, the Egyptian official met with President Saddam Husayn to discuss bilateral relations, developments in the Arab homeland, and the war with Iran, INA reported. 'Ali described the meeting as "important" and called the countries' viewpoints on regional problems "identical," Cairo radio added. The two sides also discussed the "advanced relations" between their countries and ways to further promote them, INA noted. According to remarks cited by AFP, 'Ali said his visit did not mean that diplomatic relations will be normalized.

Iraq

Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with Donald Rumsfeld on 26 March to discuss bilateral relations, the situation in the region, and the Iran-Iraq war, INA reported.

An Iraqi was wounded when a bomb exploded inside the British Consulate in Baghdad on 26 March, AFP announced citing an "informed source." The man is suspected of having planted the bomb himself, according to the source.

PLO Affairs

The Egyptian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee has decided to postpone the 30 March Cairo conference in support of the Palestinian people in response to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's request, MENA announced. 'Arafat proposed 15 May as an alternate date for the conference, after the meetings of the PNC, MENA added.

Meanwhile, 'Arafat arrived in Algiers on 26 March and held talks with the Algerian president and foreign minister, Algiers radio reported.

Kuwait

The state security court sentenced 6 men to death and 14 others to various prison terms for their part in the explosions at U.S., French, and other installations on 12 December 1983, KUNA reported. Three of those condemned to death are still at large.

FBIS

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AL-MAJALLAH: Plot To Assassinate 'Arafat Uncovered

PM270816 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 24-30 Mar 84 p 3

[From "*AL-MAJALLAH* Correspondents' Dispatches"]

[Text] *AL-MAJALLAH* has learned from informed and responsible Palestinian sources that the security branch of the Palestinian resistance has uncovered a new plan to assassinate Palestinian officials and that investigations are under way to prevent its implementation.

According to the same sources, the leaders marked for assassination include Yasir 'Arafat (Abu 'Ammar), [Fatah Central Committee member] Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), [Fatah Central Committee Member] Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), and a number of the directors of resistance offices abroad.

'Arafat Accepts Invitation To Visit SFRY

JN261719 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1618 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received at the Palestinian command in Tunis yesterday a member and envoy of the LCY Central Committee Presidium. During the meeting, they discussed the latests developments in the Palestine question on various levels. Our radio correspondent learned that the SFRY envoy delivered an official invitation to Abu 'Ammar to visit the SFRY at the earliest possible time. The correspondent added that Abu 'Ammar accepted this invitation. The time of the visit will be set later.

The SFRY official reaffirmed his country's support for the Palestinian people's struggle and inalienable rights to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state.

Abu Nidal Group Members Arested in Turkey

PM270817 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 24-30 Mar 84 p 3

[From "*AL-MAJALLAH* Correspondents' Dispatches"]

[Text] The Turkish authorities say that they recently arrested a number of the followers of Abu Nidal, who broke away from Fatah 10 years ago.

AL-MAJALLAH has learned that a security officer of an Arab state participated in the investigation carried out by the Turkish authorities.

Resistance Operation in S. Lebanon Reported

JN261733 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1618 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men are further escalating their heroic operations against the Zionist occupation forces in southern Lebanon.

A group of the Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men attacked a Zionist military patrol on the coastal road between Tyre and Sidon. The attack resulted in the killing or wounding of several Zionist soldiers. A Zionist military spokesman admitted the operation and claimed as usual that there were no casualties among the Israeli soldiers.

GULF AFFAIRS

PRC Reportedly Set To Mediate in Gulf War

GF261036 Doha QNA in Arabic 0922 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Mar (QNA) — In a statement published here today, informed diplomatic sources said that the PRC is preparing for a new move in order to stop the war between Iraq and Iran.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-QABAS*, these sources said that the PRC will send delegations to Baghdad and Tehran for this purpose, and that the visit to Kuwait by the PRC foreign minister next month is aimed at learning about the results of the previous attempts to stop this war and at listening to the viewpoints of Kuwaiti officials in this regard.

BAHRAIN

French Economic Group Visits for Joint Talks

Amir Receives Visitors

GF261844 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Manama, March 26 (WAKH) — His highness the amir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, today received Marc Bonnefous, North Africa and Middle East director at the French Ministry of External Relations and head of his country's side to the Franco-Bahraini Joint Committee for Economic and Industrial Cooperation. The committee meetings began at the Diplomat Hotel today.

The amir expressed pride in the committee meeting being held in Bahrain, and hailed the cooperation between the two countries in various fields. He emphsized the importance of such cooperation. In wishing success for the meeting, the amir called on committee members to exert further efforts to enhance relations between the two countries in the fields of industry and trade.

The audience was attended by Bahrain's Prime Minister Shaykh Khalfah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah and French Ambassador to Bahrain Rene Molinari.

Joint Committee Meetings Begin

GF261850 Manama WAKH in English 1543 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Manama, 26 Mar (WAKH) — Meetings of the Franco-Bahraini Joint Committee for Industrial and Trade Cooperation began at the Diplomat Hotel today.

The meeting was jointly chaired by the director of the Economic Department at the Bahraini Foreign Ministry, Jasim Bu 'Allay, and Marc Bonnefous, North Africa and Middle East director at the French Ministry of External Relations.

The meeting reviewed achievements since the second meeting of the committee in Paris in June 1981, in addition to measures necessary to boost cooperation between the two countries.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ on U.S. 'Double-Dealing'

GF261946 Manama WAKH in English 1625 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Manama, 26 Mar (WAKH) — The Bahraini daily *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ* lashed out at American double-dealing in the Middle East, and called on the Arabs to take appropriate actions to put an end to American duplicity.

U.S. President Reagan's 1982 peace plan had concealed provisions which entailed advice to Israel not to give up territorities occupied during the 1967 war, the newspaper said. This exposes the ugly racial face of U.S President Ronald Reagan and his misleading government, which plunders Arab resources with one hand and slaps them with the other, it pointed out.

The newspaper seconded a Jordanian deputy's demand for withdrawal of Arab assets from American banks and a boycott of American goods. Any delay in such a counteraction will encourage the United States to continue its underestimation of the Arabs, the newspaper concluded.

KUWAIT

Six Sentenced to Death for Embassy Blasts

LD270742 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0735 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, 27 March — The Kuwaiti State Security Court today sentenced six of the accused to death in the case of the explosions at the American and French embassies, and some other Kuwaiti interests, on 12 December 1983. There are 25 being tried in the case.

The six sentenced to death are: Baqir Ibrahim 'Abd ar-Rida, Ilyas Fu'ad Sa'ib, Ahmad 'Ali Husayn, Mustafa Ibrahim Ahmad, Jamal Ja'far Muhammad and Husayn Qasim Hasan. The third, fourth and fifth of this group are still at large. All the accused sentenced to death are Iraqis with the exception of Ilyas Sa'b, who is Lebanese.

Some of the accused were charged with premeditated murder, sabotage of public utilities, and importation and possession of arms and ammunition without permit from the proper authorities. Others were charged with training some of the accused in the use of firearms and ammunition with the intent to use them in attaining unlawful objectives. Of the 25 accused, there are 17 Iraqis — of whom 4 are still in hiding — 3 Lebanese, 3 Kuwaitis and two stateless.

Five people were killed in the explosion, with 87 others injured. In addition to the American and French Embassies, the attacks occurred at a hostel for U.S. experts, the control tower of the Kuwait International Airport, Ash-Shu'aybah industrial estate, and an electric power control center. Kuwaiti experts defused another bomb at the passport office in the Hawalli area.

The court sentenced seven of the accused to life imprisonment. They are 'Amir 'Abd az-Zuharah Sulayman al-'Awwad, who is an Iraqi; 'Adil [word indistinct] Shaykh Hadi, an Iraqi; Nasrallah Ma'tuq Siwan, an Iraqi; Jabbar 'Abbas Jabbar, an Iraqi; Husayn as-Sayyid Yusuf al-Musawi, Lebanese; Jasan Flayh al-Hamad,

an Iraqi; and Sa'd Yasin 'Abdallah adh-Dhiyabi, a Kuwaiti. It also sentenced 4 of the accused to 15 years' imprisonment. They are: 'Abd al-Husayn 'Aziz 'Abbas, an Iraqi; 'Azzam Khalil Ibrahim, Lebanese; Ibrahim Sabah Frayhij, an Iraqi; and Ya'rub Fa'iq Mahdi, an Iraqi. The court sentenced Yusuf Majid Wahib, an Iraqi, to 10 years' imprisonment at hard labor and deportation after serving his sentence.

It also sentenced 'Abd al-Muhsin Rashash 'Abbas, an Iraqi, and Nasir Matar Dahsh, stateless, to 5 years' imprisonment at hard labor and deportation after serving their sentences. The court also acquitted five of the accused: Haytham Mahfuz 'Abd al-Karim, an Iraqi; Ahmad 'Abd al-Karim Ni'mah, an Iraqi; Sharif Mutlaq Nasir, stateless; 'Abd ar-Rida Sawud Madwah, a Kuwaiti; and 'Abd as-Samad Jawad 'Abd as-Saffar, a Kuwaiti.

U.S. Envoy Rumsfeld Concludes Brief Visit

Amir Receives Rumsfeld

LD261108 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The amir of Kuwait received Donald Rumsfeld, the American presidential envoy to the Middle East, at 1100 today, following his arrival on a visit to the country.

The audience was attended by the under secretary of the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, Rashid Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rashid, and the U.S. charge d'affaires in Kuwait.

Rumsfeld Departs After Talks

LD261303 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1150 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 26 Mar (KUNA) — The special American envoy to the Middle East, Donald Rumsfeld, left here today after a brief visit during which he was received by the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, and had talks with Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah. The next stop in Mr Rumsfeld's tour of the Middle East, which up until now has included six Arab countries and Israel, is not immediately known.

No official statement has been issued about what was discussed in his meeting with the amir. Mr Rumsfeld later held a plenary meeting with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, who is also deputy prime minister and minister of information. [words indistinct] the undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry; Shaykh Sabah; the head of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry, Muhammad al-Harbash; and the American charge d'affaires, Philip Griffin.

No official statement about what was discussed in the talks was issued by either of the two sides. However, informed sources have stated that they dealt with "many delicate issues in the region, foremost of which were the Iraq-Iran war, the situation in Lebanon and the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Envoy Denies Need for Foreign Forces in Hormuz

LD241112 Kuwait KUNA in English 1000 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, March 24 (KUNA) — Kuwaiti Ambassador to Washington Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir as-Sabah was quoted here Saturday as dismissing fears that Iran might close the Hormuz Strait at the mouth of the Gulf, and accused the Western media of fanning such apprehensions. Iran cannot close the straits militarily and it runs counter to its own interests to do so, Sa'ud said, and at the same time refuted the need for any foreign force to keep the strait open, saying: "It's our problem and we can solve it."

Speaking exclusively to the daily *AL-WATAN*, the diplomat praised the "good" relations between Kuwait and Iran, and further accused the Western media of fueling problems between Iran and its Arab Gulf neighbors. Sa'ud, who was interviewed in Washington, added that it is in the interest of all Gulf countries to keep the Hormuz Strait open, and emphasized that the Gulf countries fully realize the need to contain the Iran-Iraq war and end it peacefully. He charged that the U.S. has magnified fears in the Gulf region to shift the focus from the failure of its policy in Lebanon. "We are the owners of the region and we do not feel these fears," he stressed, however.

The ambassador indicated that Kuwait's foreign policy stems from the principle of non-alignment, especially in dealing with superpowers, and noted that Kuwait is resolved to diversify its weapon sources. "We pay cash, and are fully entitled to choose whatever source we like," the diplomat told *AL-WATAN*, commenting on American complaints that diversification of weapons in the Gulf region would not help the Gulf countries coordinate their defenses jointly with the U.S. Recalling that Kuwait has Soviet air defenses and French weapons, he said coordination is to be among the Arab Gulf countries and not with the United States, adding that this was the ultimate goal of constant meetings among chiefs of staff of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member-states. The GCC, a political and economic regional body, is comprised of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

The ambassador noted: "We do not want to spoil our relations with the U.S.," but stressed that the U.S. cannot protect any Arab regime because Washington basically uses its "puppet" Israal to "humiliate" the Arab world. Sa'ud predicted that American strategies in the Middle East will flop, because American aid criteria has not changed, with Washington failing to send assistance to Jordan since Israel blocks such a move. He said the American Middle East policy would not change unless the Arab countries formulate a joint stand to dictate their demands to counter the powerful Zionist lobby in the United States.

Amir Receives Message From India's Gandhi

LD241216 Kuwait KUNA in English 1045 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, March 24 (KUNA) — His highness the Amir on Saturday received a message from Indian Prime Minister Indira Ghandi. India's ambassador to Kuwait delivered the message.

The message comes in response to the Amir's message to India's

prime minister, in her capacity as chairwoman of the current session of the Nonaligned Movement, in which the amir called for exerting efforts to stop the bloodshed in the Iraq-Iran war.

Union Protests New Israeli Offices in Romania
GF251210 Doha QNA in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 25 Mar (QNA) — The Kuwaiti Workers Union has warned the Romanian General Union of Trade Unions that it will sever relations with it for allowing the Israeli Trade Union Federation to open representation offices in Romania.

This was stated by an official of the Kuwaiti Workers Union. He said that in a cable to its Romanian counterpart the Kuwaiti Workers Union stated that such a measure is a hostile act against Arab workers and will cast a dark shadow not only on relations between the Kuwaiti and Romanian trade union organizations, but also between the Romanian General Union of Trade Unions and the entire Arab labor movement unless urgent steps are made to stop the opening of the Israeli labor mission in Romania.

Briefs

New Ambassador to Libya — Kuwait, Mar 25 — The official gazette *AL-KUWAIT AL-YAWM* carries a decree in its latest issue appointing Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim to be Kuwaiti ambassador to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, in addition to his work as an ambassador extraordinary and plenipoteniary of the State of Kuwait to the Federal Republic of Nigeria. [Text] [Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Mar 84 LD]

PDRY

Foreign Ministry Views Sudan-Libya Relations
GF261600 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Statement by Foreign Ministry spokesman — no date given; read by announcer]

[Text] The PDRY is following with great concern the deteriorating relations between the Democratic Republic of Sudan and the Socialist People's Libyian Arab Jamahiriyah. The PDRY regrets that such a deterioration in relations is taking place during a critical stage in the Arab region. Serious threats and real challenges are facing our Arab nation as a result of the continuous escalation of aggression and plots against our Arab peoples — particularly our Arab Palestinian and Lebanese peoples — and as a result of the ever-growing alliance between U.S. imperialism and Zionism, an alliance that is blatantly expressed by the continued U.S. military presence in Lebanon alongside the Zionist occupation of Lebanese territory.

Therefore, the PDRY believes that the recent turn of events between Sudan and Libya and the constant escalation of tension between the two countries aim to justify the strengthening of direct U.S. military presence in the region, the attempt to spread U.S. domination, and the flagrant interference in the affairs of the two countries. It is a threat to the security and stability of this region of the world.

Out of its sense of responsibility, the PDRY, while warning of the dangers of capitulating to imperialist policies and its aims, urges progressive and nationalist Arab regimes to exert all efforts to abort this conspiracy and new challenge, and to unite their ranks to confront any imperialist aggression against our Arab people.

Briefs

Talks With Bulgarians Conclude — Talks between the PDRY and Bulgarian sides were concluded at the Ministry of Industry today. The talks began last Thursday and concentrated on the salt developing projects. They were led on the PDRY side by 'Uthman 'Abd al-Jabbar, deputy minister of industry, and on the Bulgarian side by Comrade Emil Chervenyakov, first deputy minister of energy and raw materials and resources. The talks focused on issues pertinent to the salt developing project, which will increase the production and export capacity and diversify the products of the salt general establishment by producing chemical materials from salt. ANA reports that an agreement between the two sides will be signed this evening to implement this project. [Text] [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Mar 84 GF]

Outgoing Indian Ambassador Received — Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received today D.K. Uppsl, Indian Ambassador in Aden, at the end of his term of office. [Summary] [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Mar 84 GF]

QATAR

Algerian Envoy, Delegation Arrive for Visit
GF261040 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Doha, 26 Mar (WAKH) — Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and official of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat of the Algerian National Liberation Front, arrived in Doha from Abu Dhabi tonight at the head of a delegation on a visit to Qatar within his current tour to a number of the region's countries.

Upon his arrival, Messaadia stated that during the visit he will hold talks with Qatari officials on points of view regarding ways to consolidate the existing relations between the two countries and the current developments in the Arab and international arenas.

Bahraini Heir Apparent Arrives for Visit
GF261029 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Doha, 26 Mar (WAKH) — Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, arrived in Doha for a 2-day private visit to the State of Qatar at the invitation of Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani. Shaykh Hamad, the Qatari heir apparent and defense minister, received the Bahraini visitor at the airport.

Amir Receives Visitor
GF261148 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpt] His highness the amir, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, received at 1030 this morning His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force.

Briefs

Envoys to Morocco, Oman — The amir of Qatar, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, issued a decree today appointing Jasim Yusuf Jamal as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Morocco, and Ahmad 'Abdallah ibn Zayd al-Mahmud as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Sultanate of Oman. [Summary] [Doha QNA in Arabic 0752 GMT 25 Mr 84 GF]

Outgoing Korean Ambassador Received — Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs, met with Mr Kim Sang-kyu, South Korean ambassador to Qatar, on the occasion of the end of his term of office. [Summary] [Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Mar 84 GF]

SAUDI ARABIA

Foreign Minister on U.S. Embassy in Israel
LD270947 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0903 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Jidda, 27 Mar (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, stressed that the Kingdom is exerting intense efforts to block the Zionist "attempts" to have the American Embassy moved from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem.

In a statement published today by *AN-NADWAH*, his royal highness says that the Kingdom, in coordination and consultation with Arab and Islamic countries, is carrying out intensive efforts to block Israeli attempts aimed at exploiting the American presidential campaign to get the United States to alter its previous stance and contravene resolutions concerning this matter. He stresses the adherance and commitment of the Kingdom to the resolutions of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization and the United Nations.

His royal highness expressed the hope that the American Government will not be browbeaten by Zionist blackmail, and not be driven to adopt a decision it would later regret.

AR-RIYAD on Husayn's Anti-U.S. Statements
PM231650 Riyadh AR-RIYAD in Arabic 17 Mar 84 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "King Husayn and 'U.S. Justice'"]

[Text] Perhaps one of the main reasons for holding the Lebanese Reconciliation Conference in Lausanne, apart from the local factors, is the fact that the superpowers — especially the United States — have come to realize that all the world's fleets and rapid deployment forces cannot settle the question of the fighting in the Lebanese streets, and that the fighters themselves must produce a peace formula from within. We wish that this assumed international conviction would apply to the Middle East crisis as well, and that the Arabs would take their chances on peace or war with Israel on their own, without U.S. gloves and guns.

King Husayn's recent statements to *THE NEW YORK TIMES* have produced a public outcry in the United States — but instead of a fair and impartial interpretation of the profound and sensible implications of the king's statements, we see U.S. State Department spokesman John Hughes playing his part in misleading U.S. public opinion by expressing fears that terrorist and extremist activities in the region may have influenced the attitude of the moderates there.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives has approved aid for Israel worth over $1 billion, $150 million more than the U.S. President recommended.

When King Husayn talks about the Middle East and its chances for peace, and concludes that the United States has lost its credibility as a result of its differential and contradictory methods of dealing with the parties to the region's conflict, he does so on the basis of the available, obvious evidence on the attitudes not only of the U.S. Administration — which is controlled by the Jewish vote — but also of the U.S. agencies which are controlled through Zionist pressure, as seen in the attitude of the Foreign Affairs Committee. We know that any arms deal or aid program for the Arabs, including humanitarian aid, must be subject to bargaining, restrictions and conditions. The U.S. concept of peace in the Middle East means nothing other than Israel's control of the circumstances, terms and results.

It took a bloodbath and mutiliation in Lebanon to convince the United States that peace in Lebanon could only be achieved through a Lebanese formula that includes abrogation of the 17 May agreement. How much bloodletting and destruction must there be in the Middle East to produce a similar realization; namely that peace is not an Israeli will which it can impose by force. Peace means mutual understanding and respect for the Arab viewpoint.

AL-YAWM Views Sectarianism in Lebanon

GF251530 Ad-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 20 Mar 84 p 4

[Editorial: "To Save Lebanon, Sectarianism Must Be Abolished"]

[Text] The warring factions' conference in Lausanne is the last hope for resolving the Lebanese crisis with the nadir of dignity, and for achieving political reformation and reconciliation commensurate with Lebanon's sacrifices in the way of blood, worry, sorrow, tears and destruction.

If only the conferees in Lausanne knew the extent of the fire which burns with its flames the hearts of the bereaved, the widows, the handicapped and those who have no homes and face continual insults, they would all agree on any solution which would provide dignity for all the Lebanese. We do not believe that there is a solution which will be long-lasting in the shadow of political sectarianism, because any rules or institutions that are built on a sectarian basis will collapse as they attach more importance to the sectarian form than to human dignity. Lebanon itself will not be stable if sectarianism is reestablished because the sectarian emblems stand responsible for all the catastrophes that have occurred and are occurring in Lebanon. Such emblems will in practice divide Lebanon socially and geographically into sectarian skeletons which will be incompatible with what man has achieved for civilization.

All Arabs want peace and security to return to Lebanon, but they are pessimistic with regard to the effectiveness of half-solutions or temporary solutions which merely aim at freezing the situation until further notice, as has been the case with the deep-rooted sectarian conflicts throughout Lebanese history. The sectarian form offers to others a way into Lebanese society whenever they wish to fulfill ambitions or split Lebanon anew. We believe that Israel will endeavor to use all kinds of methods to preserve sectarianism in Lebanon so that it can enter Lebanon through the window of Lebanese sectarianism if it wanted to create unrest in Lebanon. Israel considers itself to be an enemy of all Arabs, including the Lebanese and the Phalangists.

Sectarianism in Lebanon must be ended in order to block all types of political interference. We believe that the Lausanne conference provides an opportunity — especially to the Phalangist Party — to prevent the arrival of the day when more Lebanese blood will be spilled because of the sectarianism to which some people adhere.

Government Studying Military Conscription Plan

GF270504 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 27 Mar 84 p 2

[Excerpt] Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has declared that his government is studying the introduction of military conscription. Fahd made the disclosure about the draft in a meeting with the teaching staff and students of King Faysal University in the eastern province.

"The draft is being studied with a view to determining the best means of attaining security participation by sectors of the nation in the defence of their homeland and its achievements," the king said.

Interior Minister Discusses Information Policy

LD261918 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Speech by Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of the interior and chairman of the Supreme Information Council, on 25 March at the Islamic University of Imam Muhammad ibn Sa'ud — read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God, lord of the worlds. Peace and grace be upon he who taught the people the finest truth and truest saying.

Brethren, men of information and learning, God's peace and grace be upon you. I have the pleasure to meet you to discuss and to debate affairs and issues of information. Information in this era has become a power equivalent to, or on a par with military power, economic power, political power and scientific power. What I mean is that information has become the fifth major power influencing the lives of people — molding their reality and directing their destiny.

I add to this and say that the military, economic, political and scientific power itself cannot do without information. Information fufills the task of moral mobilization, and the task of psychological immobilization in the military sphere greatly contributes to the development of economic power; inspires work; serves agricultural, industrial and commercial guidance; serves political decisions; makes it easy to obtain scientific knowledge; and acquaints people with the truth about learning.

Out of an appreciation of information in this era, the Supreme Council for Information — of which I am proud to be president — was created. The council has among its primary tasks the declaration of a comprehensive information policy that can be an intellectual, political, cultural and civilizational guide for those dealing with information in the two known spheres: programming, education and training: and working in the information media. I propose that this information policy to be a launching pad for our dialogue and debates, which I beg God will be fruitful and purposeful.

The information policy has its dimensions, which I will sum up in the following points:
The first dimension is to serve the monotheistic faith and the principles of Islam, to be committed to them, and to guard them against negative influences. We have noticed that most of the negative influences come through the information means. This is an important gap, which the soldiers of information are charged with guarding in their various positions. We in the Ministry of Information are greatly interested in intellectual security, which is a solid foundation of the most important foundations of public security. Because of this interest, we are fully convinced that behind every political, moral, financial or social crime is an evil idea, information and the disseminators of thought, whether they were good or evil [sentence as heard].

The second dimension is to direct words in an effective and positive direction, contributing to the process of national construction through strengthening the incentives for production and creativeness; raising the priority of programmtic and scientific work, plays, articles and investigation; and through refraining from spreading and disseminating anything likely to propagate negative spirit in the citizens or (?teaching) them in small (?meetings).

The third dimension is to present an accurate picture of this Muslim country, distinguished by its Islamic system and geographical position, and its ambitious aspiration in the sphere of development, construction and comprehensive civilizational awakening. I would like to be frank with you and say: We do not want excitement, too much over-description, nor praise unsupported by reality. What we want is to present a descriptive and analytical picture of reality characterized by truth, response, the love of this country and praise for its glories, holy places and achievements. If the information people are capable of presenting this picture, they will be serving their profession with maturity and responsibility, and will be serving the world with seriousness and sincerity to help it learn the true reality of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This, in my view, is considered the strongest reply to the tendentious information campaigns directed against the Kingdom.

True, because of our knowledge about the reasons for these campaigns, we are not upset. They attack for three main reasons; our adherence to Islam, our planning for the future — an agricultural, industrial, scientific and defensive future; which will increase our power and influence — and our fruitful effectiveness in serving the Islamic and Arab causes.

I can affirm that if, for argument's sake, we abandoned one of these three matters, they would love us a third of love; if we abandoned them all, they would love us fully. I say this: We can do without every love and satisfaction achieved at the expense of our principles. Although we are not disturbed because we know the reason, it is instinctive for one to feel the bitterness of being unfairly accused and being accused in a way contrary to the clear and objective facts. This matter has been been made clear by the blessed Koran to the prophet, God's peace and grace be upon him, when the Al-Jahiliun [contemporaries of Prophet Muhammad who rejected the faith and worked against him] accused him of things of which he was innocent.

The information people and others keep on saying that world Zionism has a strong influence in the information sphere. We must learn the lesson and not content ourselves with lamenting. The lesson of this is that the strength of international Zionism in the domain of information lies in three factors: planning, potential and manpower. God almighty has guided us to excellent planning and made possibilities available to us. As for the human element — one who is capable and loyal in performing one's job in conscience, expertise and awareness of the conditions and timeliness — this is one of the points we are going to discuss this evening, God willing, particularly regarding the quest for improving quantity and quality.

The fourth dimension: preparation of high-quality Saudi information that will be a platform for an excellent information contribution on the part of the Kingdom from various information. It is also giving information a new point of view in dealing with the issues of man, values, peace, war and dialogue between civilizations.

We are not only oil exporters in the present and the near future; we are not only exporters of fruit, poultry, wheat and manufactured goods in the long term; we are also a nation that has an intellectual and cultural contribution, and has an international civilization mission.

The fifth dimension: making information an instrument for a fraternal, honest understanding in order to strengthen the ties of cooperation and solidarity with the people of the Kingdom and the Arab and Islamic peoples — a means of strengthening the ties of cooperation and solidarity between Muslims.

The sixth dimension: an effective human contribution to the international efforts aimed at safeguarding the dignity of man and preserving his rights, and lifting the pressure of wrongdoing, coersion and oppression off him, his spirit and body.

In the context of these dimensions, there are trends with which we are particularly interested. Among these trends is that we consider all the homeland as one scene for the activity of the men of information, whether from the press, television or radio. This requires a balanced sharing of interests and activities between the large and small towns and villages.

The state has laid down a balanced plan for distributing services among large and small towns and villages with justice and equality. Information services will be distributed on this basis. This is a necessary trend — a diversification of information activity in the light of what is needed. Successive information efforts should be exerted in the field of consumption awareness, health education, and persuading the young generations of the prosperous future to undergo vocational and technical training.

Until now, I have not yet read a word conferring bravery and high social status on a Saudi youth that has chosen and succeeded in technical studies, thus opening up before himself the doors to a bright future — a youth that has been the subject of competition by establishments, and has become an example for Saudi youth. [sentence as heard]

The issues and subjects needing to be posed or tackled should be dealt with by the man of information fully, before other less important ones. We are proud to say that we do not have any restrictions in dealing with and tackling problems except the natural restrictions: ethics, responsibility, higher interest and exact knowledge of the issue. Thank you everyone. Peace be upon you with the benedictions and blessings of God.

Briefs

Loan To Tunisia — The Tunisian and Saudi development funds today signed an agreement according to which the Saudi fund will provide a loan of 50 million Saudi riyals to Tunisia in order to participate in financing the projects of the Maghzawah oases in south Tunisia. The plan is designed to utilize the underground

springs in the region of Maghzawah for the reclamation of 5,974 hectares, thus ameliorating the agricultural production. [Excerpts] [Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Mar 84 GF]

UAE

Algerian Envoy Delivers Message to President

GF261127 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpt] His Highness President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a message from Algerian President Chadli Benjedid on the current Arab situation and its latest developments, the Iraqi-Iranian war and the efforts being made to end it, as well as bilateral relations and the means of developing mutual cooperation in various fields.

The message was delivered by Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and official of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN, during his meeting with the president at Al-Jarf resthouse.

Briefs

International Gas Agreement Signed — Ash-Shariqah (WAM) — Shaykh Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, member of the UAE Supreme Council, signed an agreement on 22 March establishing the Ash-Shariqah Natural Gas Liquification Company Limited (SHALKO). The agreement stipulates that the Ash-Shariqah Government will hold 60 percent of the company, the AMOCO production company will hold 25 percent, and the Japanese (CITU) and Tokyo (Poki) companies will each hold 7.5 percent. The project is for constructing a plant to extract liquid natural gas in the As-Saja'ah oilfield and to build gas pipelines to the Al-Humayra area to store the natural gas and then to export it through the port that will be built at Al-Humayra. The port will be able to receive natural gas tankers of more than 85,000 cubic meter capacity. The Japanese company (GGC) will be the main contractor in implementing the project. The annual production capacity will be about 240,000 metric tons of propane, about 200,000 metric tons of butane, and about 180,000 metric tons of condensed oil. The remaining solid gas will be used as fuel for power stations in the northern amirates. The two Japanese companies will market the liquid gas, while AMOCO will operate the plant and market the condensed oil through its existing facilities. [Excerpt] [Ash-Shariqah *AL-KHALIJ* in Arabic 23 Mar 84 pp 1, 18 GF]

Agreement Signed With India — Bombay, 26 Mar (WAKH) — The UAE signed an agreement with India today to lay a new sea cable linking the two countries. The agreement was signed by 'Ali Salim al-'Uways, general director of the Emirates' communications center (Emirtel) on the UAE side, and by Guy Katiar, general director of the overseas communications services on the Indian side. The project will cost $100 million and will link Bombay to Abu Dhabi. The length of the cable is approximately 1,100 nautical miles with a capacity for reaching 1,200 telephone circles. The work is expected to begin in 1986. A short wave line will also be extended between Bombay and Madras, which will link the UAE-Indian cable with the commonwealth cable in the Indian Ocean. This will faciliate communications operations between the UAE and the countries located east of India. [Text] [Manama WAKH in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Mar 84 GF]

YAR

Official Receives Iraqi Chairman's Message

GF261616 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] San'a', 26 Mar (WAKH) — 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, chairman of the YAR People's Constituent Council and chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union, received a written message from Na'im Haddad, chairman of the Iraqi National Council, dealing with the development of the parliamentary relations between the two countries.

The letter, which was conveyed by the Iraqi ambassador to San'a' during his meeting with 'Arashi here today, also comprised a draft resolution prepared by the Iraqi National Council on the Arab-Zionist conflict and the Iraqi-Iranian war, commissioned by the Arab Paliamentary Union held in San'a' at the beginning of this year.

Briefs

Mauritanian Envoy Received — Foreign Affairs Minister Ahmad al-Asbahi received Mohamed Abdelkader Ould Sidi, who presented his credentials as nonresident ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Mauritania to the YAR. [Summary] [San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Mar 84 GF]

Industrial Agreement With Jordan — The minutes of the meeting on cooperation in the field of industrial development between our country and Jordan were signed today. On the YAR side, they were signed by Brother Ahmad Qaid Barakat, minister of economy and industry. On Jordan's side, they were signed by Jawad al-'Anani, minister of industry and trade. [Text] [San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Mar 84 GF]

'Ali Returns From Baghdad, Meets Mubarak

NC270931 Cairo MENA in English 0920 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 27 (MENA) — Husni Mubarak met here today with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, who reported to him on his just-concluded visit to Iraq. The Egyptian official returned last night from Baghdad, where he had delivered to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn a message from President Mubarak which set out means of stopping the Gulf war, and affirmed Egypt's continued support for Iraq.

Ghali on Palestine Question, Israeli Settlements

NC262007 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has reaffirmed that the Palestine question is the core of the Middle East conflict. He said Egypt demands a halt to the construction of Israeli settlements which it regards as illegal and an obstacle in the way of peace.

In a statement he made today on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the ratification of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, Dr Ghali stressed that Egypt fully abides by the text and spirit of the treaty. He said Egypt believes that the ratification of this treaty is a first step on the road to a comprehensive solution of the Middle East question, which must be based on respecting the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Envoy to ICO To Present Credentials 'Next Week'

NC241554 Cairo MENA in English 1540 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, March 24 (MENA) — Ambassador Ahmad Abu al-Khayr, head of the Egyptian Interests Mission in Saudi Arabia, said here today that next week has been fixed as the date for presenting his credentials as Egypt's permanent delegate to the Islamic Conference Organization. He added that Egypt would begin immediately to take part in the preparation for the Islamic conference to be held at foreign ministers level in the first half of December in San'a'. He added that this conference is expected to be preceded by another Islamic conference, whose level has not yet been fixed, to discuss the Iraqi-Iranian war.

The presentation of the Egyptian's credentials was made necessary by the resolution of the recent Fes Arab summit approving the resumption of Egypt's membership to the organization.

Conference in Support of Palestinians Postponed

NC261402 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA) — The Egyptian Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee has decided to postpone the plenary conference in support of the Palestinian people which was scheduled for 30 March. This was stated by Committee Secretary General Ahmad Hamrush. He added that the committee decided on the postponement at today's meeting chaired by Committee Chairman 'Abd ar-Rahman ash-Sharqawi.

The conference is expected to be held following the PNC meetings, which are expected to convene in Algiers in the middle of April.

Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, had asked the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee delegation, which returned from Tunis yesterday, to postpone the conference. This is because 'Arafat will be busy with the PNC meetings. The Palestinian leader proposed 15 May as the date for holding the conference.

Mali's Traore Arrives in Cairo 26 March

NC262054 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2025 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA) — Malian President Moussa Traore arrived in Cairo tonight on a 4-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. The Malian president was met at Cairo International Airport by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

MENA on Nonaligned News Agencies Pool Conference

NC260614 Cairo MENA in English 2105 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 25 (MENA) — The Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool Conference approved, at its final session tonight under Mustafa Najib, MENA board chairman and editor-in-chief, the general report on the proceedings of the conference which started here yesterday.

The report included approval of Egypt's proposal on setting up an integrated communications network linking the pool news re-circulation centres in Latin America, Africa, Europe, and Asia. It also approved the Egyptian proposal on considering 1985 as non-aligned news agencies data year, as well as conducting continuous studies on the technological developments which affect the communication systems applied by the news agencies.

The report underlined the importance of exchanging photo-services on events and continuing to use wireless facilities wherever no other modern communication means are ready.

The conference also approved another set of recommendations related to facilitating the work of news agencies in the non-aligned countries, including the need to reduce telecommunications tariff rates to secure a balanced flow of news among the non-aligned countries.

Mubarak Reinstitutes High Judicial Council

NC262045 Cairo MENA in English 1930 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, March 26 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has passed into law a decree on reinstalling the High Judicial Council, for whose return judges have been struggling since it was abolished in 1969.

Breaking the news to reporters here today after an almost one-and-a-half hour meeting with the president, Counsellor Muhammad Wajdi 'Abd as-Samid, chairman of the Judges Club, also said the club's members thanked the president for this. "The democratic atmosphere created by President Mubarak was

invested in speeding up the issuance of the law", he said. "Was it not for that atmosphere, that law would not have been passed," he said, adding that it also involved extension of immunity to men of the public prosecution, a demand of no less weight to judges than the demand on the return of their High Council.

AL-JUMHURIYAH on U.S. Liaison Bureau in Jerusalem

NC270526 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA) — The Cairo newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says the alternative solution that U.S. diplomacy has reached by setting up a U.S. liaison bureau in Jerusalem instead of transferring the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem implies one thing. That is, namely, that the United States recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's capital in substance and content.

In a commentary in Tuesday's edition, the paper points out that if the opening of a U.S. liaison bureau in Jerusalem is not a full recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, it nevertheless is a first definite step toward such recognition. This is evident by the fact that U.S.-Israeli military relations began by the United States providing Phantom planes to Israel, and have now reached the point of a strategic pact.

The paper concludes its commentary by saying the United States must realize the seriousness of its action. This realization can only materialize if all the Arabs make the United States feel the real value of its interests in the Arab world.

AL-AKHBAR on Peace Agreement With Israel

NC270657 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2315 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA) — Commenting on the fifth anniversary of the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement, the newspaper *AL-AKHBAR* says this agreement amounted to an historic turning point in the Middle East following 29 years of wars. It adds that no one can dispute the fact that the courageous step taken by Egypt, when the late leader Anwar as-Sadat went to Jerusalem, caused a tremor that continues to echo in the Arab world.

In a commentary published Tuesday, the paper notes that Anwar as-Sadat's Egypt made the peace, and under President Husni Mubarak's leadership, Egypt continues to be committed to this peace. Peace was a dream which we succeeded in making come true.

The paper says that what has been achieved from the peace agreement has been much less than was expected when it was signed 5 years ago. The paper adds that what has been achieved is the first part of this agreement, namely, the end of the state of war between Egypt and Israel. However, Israeli policies, with all their mistakes, have contributed to making the peace a cold peace.

AL-AKHBAR urges Israel to investigate the reasons precluding progress in the peace process. It also urges Israel to take into consideration that peace cannot become a reality between it and its Arab neighbors as long as Israeli forces continue to occupy southern Lebanon. Peace will not become a reality while Israel ignores that [the return of] Arab Jerusalem is a requirement which the Arab and Islamic worlds will not possibly relinquish, and that any step toward Judaizing Jerusalem will delay the peace by hundreds of steps.

The paper adds that Israeli leaders must realize that the continued argument over the status of the Egyptian Tabah will not serve the peace. They must also realize that the Palestinians' rights to self-determination is an essential factor for peace in the area, because the Palestinian problem has been and remains the core of the Middle East conflict. The paper adds that the continuation of the settlements policy in the West Bank could destroy the peace.

The paper expressed the hope that Israel will take this occasion as an opportunity to consider the historic importance of peace with Egypt, which desires a comprehensive peace in the area that will restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

Radio Comments on Israeli Elections Decision

NC231421 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Usamah 'Abd al-Ghani commentary: "The Distance Between Peace and Israel"]

[Text] The Israeli Knesset's decision to dissolve itself and to hold early general elections is an Israeli internal affair. The Israeli people alone are entitled to choose the government that expresses their wishes and interests.

The economic crisis, which is considered the worst that the Likud Government has faced, is linked to the crisis that resulted from the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. In our opinion, all the internal crises that this government has faced are closely linked to its political activity [as heard], which drains the Israeli Defense Ministry budget and which in turn drains more than one-third of the Israeli budget.

Observers have noted that Israel is facing a difficult period as a result of the collapse of the agreement with Lebanon. In our opinion, the collapse of this agreement has an implication with regard to the Israeli Government's concept of peace. In this regard, former Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman accused the ruling Likud Party of responsibility for destroying one of the most important Israeli gains — peace with Egypt. He said the peace agreement with Egypt should have enabled Israel to solve the Palestinian problem. Thus, with mere words, Weizman was able to narrow the distance. The just solution of the Palestinian problem is the shortest road to settling the Arab-Israeli conflict and to furthering the peace process, which has stumbled as a result of the Likud Government's insistence that peace with Egypt should be separate and should isolate Egypt from its Arab brothers. This is something that Israel has been unable to achieve. The Knesset and the Israeli people alone have a right to choose their government. But it would be better for them to choose a government that would bring them genuine peace and

prosperity, which are closely connected with their neighbors' peace and prosperity.

Some may think that dealing with another government led by the opposition Israeli Labor party, for example, will be better than dealing with the Likud Government. However, the Arabs have not forgotten that the Israeli Labor party, now the staunchest opponent and critic of the Likud Government, was the first to express its support for the Israeli invasion of Lebanon at its start, when this party's leader said: When guns speak, criticism stops.

Once again, we say that the Israeli people alone have a right to choose their government. But their Arab neighbors' dealing with this government depends on the extent of its acceptance of the Arab terms for the establishment of a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East. These terms are the withdrawal of all the Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan; and the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination. In our opinion, an Israeli Government's fulfillment of these terms will determine the distance between peace and Israel.

Briefs

Energy Cooperation With Iraq — Cairo, March 22 (MENA) — Egypt and Iraq signed an agreement today according to which the Egyptian Electric Cables Company will export a quota of its production to Iraq amounting to four million dollars to be used in developing electricity and energy projects in Iraq. On the other hand, the Iraqi delegation, currently visiting here, under Layth ash-Shunjali, deputy minister of energy has inspected today the cable factory at Musturud. Meanwhile, the Iraqi delegation is scheduled to leave for home today winding up the four-day visit to Egypt during which its members had talks with officials at the Ministries of Electricity and Industry on consolidating technical cooperation between the two countries in the fields of energy and electricity. [Text][Cairo MENA in English 1212 GMT 22 Mar 84 NC]

Briefs

Aswan Governor Appointed — President Husni Mubarak has issued a decree appointing Qadri 'Uthman as governor of Aswan, in upper Egypt. [Text][Cairo MENA in English 1912 GMT 19 Mar 84 NC]

AFP: Bomb Explodes Inside British Consulate

NC261628 Paris AFP in English 1619 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, March 26 (AFP) — An Iraqi national was wounded today when a bomb exploded inside the British Consulate here, an informed source said.

According to the source, the Iraqi is suspected of having himself planted the bomb, which was in a small package. He was alone in a room of the consulate when the bomb went off, damaging the walls and blowing out the window. The extent of the Iraqi's injuries was not known.

At the time of the blast, toward 7 p.m. local, a number of Iraqi students were in the consulate taking English lessons.

This morning, the source said, Iraqi security forces arrested a man suspected of trying to commit a terrorist act inside the British Embassy, in central Baghdad. The man was arrested as he tried to enter the embassy area and taken away for interrogation.

Unconfirmed reports said he had tried to force his way in at the wheel of a car.

The source said that security measures were recently tightened at the embassy, with protective barriers and concrete blocks placed at the entrance.

Numerous British and foreign diplomats have recently received threats signed by the "Islamic Jihad," which has claimed responsibility for most of the anti-American and anti-French terrorism in Beirut. But the British Embassy had received no threatening letter, the source said.

Armed Forces Issues Communique No 1,416 - 26 March

JN261717 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,416 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 26 March 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With high efficiency and capability our valiant Armed Forces are continuing their activities in the operational sectors against the forces of the clique of evil and filth in Iran. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units pounded an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing three, wounding others, and destroying one infantry position and one hardware stockpile.

2. Our forward units dealt concentrated artillery blows to the enemy positions and troop concentrations in the areas opposite our positions east of Basra, scoring accurate and effective hits. The enemy sustained one killed and several others wounded elsewhere in the same area.

3. The criminals ruling in Iran today shelled Basra and Mandali with heavy artillery, wounding five citizens and damaging several civilian establishments in Basra, and demolishing three houses in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 March 1984

Saddam Husayn Comments on War to Arab Jurists

JN261939 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has said that in accordance with our belief and opinion, any national action in this country is measured by its connection with the Arab nation's spirit, history, and glorious past which is greater than all of us and more effective than any Arab action.

This came during a reception the president held for the head and members of the permanent office of the Arab Jurists Union today.

The president said that it is a great honor for Iraq to endeavor to realize Arab solidarity. He said: We have been active for the sake of Arab solidarity and for offering solutions to any differences among our brothers. However, when the war broke out we feared that if we became active in this direction, our activities would be interpreted as being connected with our needs that were imposed by the war situation, despite the fact that Iraq is part of the Arab nation and that we should not feel ashamed to ask assistance from our Arab brothers, both in terms of ideas and material support. We do not want to take any pan-Arab action whose motives may be construed as being of regional characteristics. We did not brag about our men along the Iraqi borders forming a dam that will eventually protect our brothers in the Gulf.

The president expressed the belief that if this dam is destroyed the deluge will not be confined to the Gulf area but will transcend this area to very remote areas. The president said that Iraq alone is capable of crushing aggression, treachery and darkness no matter how long it takes.

U.S. Envoy Rumsfeld Arrives, Meets With 'Aziz

JN261850 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1838 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Donald Rumsfeld, the U.S. President's envoy to the Middle East, here this evening. During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations, the situation in the region, and the continuous Iranian aggression against Iraq. The meeting was attended by Muhammad Sa'id as-Sahhaf, Iraqi under secretary of foreign affairs; Silverman, U.S. ambassador in the U.S. Department of State, and the chief of the U.S. Interests Section in Baghdad.

The U.S. presidential envoy arrived here earlier today on a short visit to Iraq.

Rumsfeld Departs 26 Mar

JN261858 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA) — U.S. Presidential envoy to the Middle East Donald Rumsfeld departed Baghdad this evening after a short visit to Iraq. During this visit, Rumsfeld and Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, discussed bilateral relations, the situation in the region, and the continuous Iranian aggression against Iraq.

'Ali Holds Baghdad News Conference 26 March

NC262140 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali has described his meeting today with President Saddam Husayn as an important meeting which absolutely showed the extent of agreement between Egypt and Iraq with respect to the current problems in the Arab homeland, which threaten the security and stability of the area as a whole. At a news conference he held today at the end of his visit to Iraq, 'Ali said that President Saddam Husayn gave him a verbal message to President Husni Mubarak in reply to the Egyptian president's written message which he conveyed to the Iraqi president at their meeting today.

'Ali added that President Mubarak's message to the Iraqi president dealt with the efforts which Egypt is exerting to end the Iraqi-Iranian war be it through the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic Conference, the United Nations, or through the various international and regional organizations.

At the outset of his news conference, 'Ali spoke about the outcome of his visit to Iraq and said that it was an opportunity for further consultations between the two countries on various subjects which are of common interest, such as the Iraqi-Iranian war and the situation in the Arab homeland.

He added that the visit contributed to further cooperation between Egypt and Iraq in various fields to the benefit of the two fraternal peoples. It has been agreed to exchange visits between senior officials in Iraq and Egypt and the appropriate ministers.

He noted in this connection that he invited Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to visit Egypt and also invited the Iraqi minister of agriculture to increase cooperation between the two countries. 'Ali said that the Iraqi under secretary of the Labor Ministry will visit Egypt on 15 April to draw up the bases for organizing and coordinating Egyptian manpower in Iraq to ensure all the rights of Egyptian workers and to transfer their savings.

He noted in this respect the Iraqi economic delegation's recent visit to Egypt, during which it was agreed to exchange trade between the two countries in the amount of $15 million — the value of Egyptian contracts with Iraq.

Answering a question over whether Egypt will carry out a new role in the next few days in light of its consultations with Iraq today on ending the Gulf war, 'Ali said: While exerting its efforts to end this war, Egypt is not carrying out a new role but is renewing its role.

He added: Ever since the Iraqi-Iranian war broke out and because Iraq has shown good will with respect to ending this war, Egypt has been contributing with various international organizations be it through the nonaligned summit, the United Nations, the Security Council, or through intensive international contacts which Egypt has made and which it will make in the coming phase. Egypt will always call for ending the fighting and the bloodbath which has no justification.

'Ali stressed that Egypt fully stands by Iraq, and Egypt will not hesitate to respond to Iraq's request for military support. He added: Iraq has the manpower to enable it to repel any Iranian offensive. He noted that the past and present battles have shown that Iraq is capable of this.

'Ali was answering a question about his view on Syria's and Libya's stance regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war, on the silent stand of some Arab states, and on whether Egypt is contemplating supporting Iraq militarily.

Asked his opinion about future moves concerning the Palestinian issue during the coming phase and whether Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat's visit [to Cairo] has moved the Palestinian issue toward a peaceful solution, and what efforts Egypt is making to achieve such a solution, Kamal Hasan 'Ali replied: Before and after 'Arafat's visit to Cairo, Egypt supported a Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue in order to reach a formula for having the Palestinians represented in any future negotiations on the path of a peaceful solution.

He emphasized in this respect that Egypt encourages Jordan and the Palestinians to reach such an agreement.

Asked what is his opinion about Israel's continuing intransigence, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: Egypt always advocates and calls on Israel to adopt positive stands and it also encourages moderation, starting with its request that Israel halt its practices in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and that it also halt the construction of settlements, which contravenes the letter and spirit of the Camp David accord as well as all other initiatives made by the international community in its various forms.

Replying to a question as to whether there is anything new in the Egyptian-Iraqi relations at the diplomatic level following his visit, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: As I have already said, discussions and an exchange of viewpoints between Egypt and Iraq are continuing on all the problems that concern the two countries, foremost of which is the Iraq-Iran war, as well as on all the problems related to the Arab homeland as a whole, and Arab solidarity.

Addressing his interlocutor, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: Perhaps you refer in this respect to Arab solidarity in particular. At his news conference, Kamal Hasan 'Ali also replied to a question on the relations between Egypt and the Arab states by saying: The Egyptian-Arab relations are always developing to the extent the Arab states desire.

He added: On this basis, our relations have strengthened with many Arab states that had adopted stands against Egypt in the past.

Asked if Egypt is thinking of abrogating the Camp David accord, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister replied by saying: This is completely untrue. Egypt adheres to its international commitments and to everything it has signed whether on a bilateral or other level. This accord is one such agreement and there is no reason to abrogate it. He added: The Camp David accord is the only thing that legally binds Israel to the peace process and to proceeding toward a peaceful solution without annexing territories. It also confirms UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and has made the Palestinian issue an issue of a people and not an issue of refugees. This is why Egypt adheres to this accord.

A Moroccan journalist asked 'Ali to explain why some Arab states are persistently calling for Egypt's return while they have not taken steps in this connection. 'Ali told the journalist that he should address this question to the Arab states and not to Egypt.

Asked how he views Egypt's return to the Arab ranks, 'Ali said: We see Egypt's return to the Arab ranks as being for the sake of the Arab causes which it has not abandoned under any circumstances. He added: We will continue to work for the Arab causes without let-up, with a pan-Arab concept, and within the context of the real pan-Arab interest. This was proved by the fact that when the Iraqi-Iranian war broke out, Egypt's position was a pan-Arab one.

Concerning Egypt's contacts with the Nonaligned Movement to end the Gulf war, 'Ali explained that Egypt's efforts through the Nonaligned Movement to end this war would be intensified. He expressed hope that positive results would be achieve in this connection.

A journalist asked 'Ali about the new threat to the Nile valley security represented by the air raid on Omdurman and whether this threat will affect Egypt's role vis-avis the Iraqi-Iranian war.

'Ali said: There are indisputable points. Egypt is the strategic backyard of Sudan and Sudan is the strategic backyard of Egypt. Whoever tries to interfere in Sudan's domestic affairs or to undermine its security and stability must face the two countries together — Egypt and Sudan. This is not only because we are two states but one people, but also because there is a joint defense pact which is put into implementation when necessary. The recent event in Omdurman proved that Egypt is serious in this matter.

In a statement to Egyptian journalists on the outcome of the diplomatic conference he held with the [Egyptian] ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions in the Gulf region, 'Ali said that he listened to full reports from the diplomats on the area and the Iraqi-Iranian war, as well as on the Palestinian and Lebanese problems, in order to make a full appraisal of Egypt's activity and to reassess the attitude of these states toward what is happening in the area.

He added that he also discussed questions pertaining to the Egyptians working in these states and the assistance that the Egyptian missions can give to them.

'Ali Leaves Baghdad 26 Mar

JN261449 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foriegn minister, left Baghdad this afternoon at the end of a 3-day visit to Iraq, during which he conveyed a written message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to President Saddam Husayn.

The Egyptian official also held talks with Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister, and Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foriegn minister. Talks dealt with the latest developments in the Arab region and the Iraqi-Iranian war.

Poland's Janusz Obodowski Arrives for Talks

JN251828 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Mar (INA) — Janusz Obodowski, deputy chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers, arrived here tonight at the head of a delegation on an official visit to Iraq.

Obodowski said he will hold talks with the Iraqi officials on the means to bolster cooperation in the trade, economic, and technical fields.

Meeting With Trade Minister

JN261002 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA) — Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and minister of trade, this morning received Janusz Obodowski, deputy chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers, and his accompanying delegation.

The two sides reviewed economic, trade, and technical cooperation between the two countries, and ways of promoting it in service of the two countries' interests.

They also exchanged viewpoints on the preparations underway for convening the eighth session of the Iraqi-Polish joint committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation in Warsaw at a later date.

Meeting With Industries Minister

JN261352 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA) — Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah, Iraqi light industries minister, met here today with Janusz Obodowski, deputy chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers, and his delegation.

The two sides discussed the spheres of developing bilateral economic relations. They also discussed the possibility of the Polish institution's implementation of the development plans in Iraq and the training of the Iraqi technical cadres.

Meeting With Ramadan

JN261613 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, met here today with Janusz Obodowski, deputy chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers, and his delegation. The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and the horizons of promoting them in all fields.

Ramadan and Obodowski expressed their satisfaction with the existing bilateral relations and their progress in the interest of the two friendly peoples. The Polish official expressed his country's desire to expand its relations with Iraq as well as his country's appreciation of Iraq's leadership and its stands toward the international issues. He highly valued Iraq's peaceful efforts and respect of the international community resolutions which call for ending war with Iran. He also praised Iraq's response to the international and regional efforts in this regard.

Baghdad Azeri on Fate of Iranian Rulers

GF261602 Baghdad International Service in Azeri 1900 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, 30,000 dead, 50,000 wounded, thousands of prisoners of war, and 250 destroyed tanks and armored vehicles.

Yes, while the war which was imposed on the Iraqi people by the illiterate and executioner Iranian rulers in Tehran and Qom entered its 4th year and while the clash between the two Muslim neighboring countries continued in a violent way, the pro-Khomeyni supporters unleased their third onslaught against Basra. However, as we have just said, they witnessed the death of 30,000 Iranian and the wounding and maiming of 50,000 others. Obviously, the attacks of criminal Khomeyni are leading to the death of hundreds of thousands of youths in both countries. Hundreds of thousands of others are being wounded and maimed or captured as prisoners of war. Furthermore, the war has dealt heavy blows on the economies of both Iran and Iraq.

An interesting point is that the warmongers who have kindled the imposed war have not yet established the reason why they started the fighting which has inflicted $220 billion worth of damage on Iran and killed many Iranian youths. They have not established why they have imposed the war on Iraqi people and the poor Iranians. As the proverb goes, who are the wise men to retrieve the stone thrown into the well of war by the hand of the crazy supporters of Khomeyni? Does the court of Khomeyni know of such wise men? Those who are in this court are merely nonsensical, illogical, and crazy entities.

An interesting point is that the said group of mullahs, which has been dreaming about the [word indistinct] of Cyrus and Darius, has not been able to establish the route it would take to Jerusalem. Nor have they been able to [words indistinct]. 'Ali Khamene'i says that Khomeyni wishes An-Najaf to be his Vatican. Hashemi-Rafsanjani says that the road to Jerusalem must cross through An-Najaf. Khamene'i shouts that the road to Jerusalem should cross through Basra and Baghdad. Colonel Sayyad-Shirazi says let alone Jerusalem, the road to Baghdad must cross through As-Sulaymaniyah. As for Mohsen Reza'i, he adds that the road to Karbala' must cross through Baghdad. Karbala' is the key to the doors of Jerusalem.

They have now put forward a new slogan: The road to Baghdad must cross through Basra.

In that regard, they have been telling good news to the poor Iranians about their unfounded conquests. They say that crossing through the [word indistinct] borders of Iraq and advancing on Iraqi soil for a few kilometers is tantamount to reaching Karbala' and the city of Baghdad. Thus they are resorting to consecutive attacks and turning tens of thousands of innocent Iranian youths into cannonfodder for the sake of their deceitful actions. We have witnessed that the attack they organized against Basra resulted in the death of 30,000 Iranians and the wounding of 50,000 others. Many were turned into cannonfodder. Obviously, the supporters of Khomeyni have arrived at the final stages of their blood-dripping rule.

Therefore, instead of moving to cross through Basra, An-Najaf, Karbala', Baghdad Irbil, As Sulaymaniyah, Al-'Amarah, and others, they should choose the road to history's garbage pit in which they will be dumped. They should have faith that they will be placed in [words indistinct]. They must know that the road that will lead to their cemeteries will be chosen by the brave Iranian peoples and not by their heirs — that is to say the Hashemi-Rafsanjanis and the Khomeynis. The brave Iranians will dump them in history's garbage.

Queen Elizabeth Begins Five-Day Visit

JN261133 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Amman — Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of Britain and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the duke of Edinburgh, arrived in Amman today on a 5-day official visit to Jordan at the invitation of His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur. His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur received Queen Elizabeth when she alighted from the plane. The queen was also received by Prince Muhammad, Crown Prince Hasan, and several of their royal highnesses the princes and princesses. Also present at the reception were the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the court minister, the chief chamberlain, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the foreign minister, the Jordanian ambassador in London, and the British ambassador in Amman and their wives.

Her majesty the queen and the accompanying entourage were accorded a warm official reception at Amman airport. A 21-gun salute was fired in honor of Jordan's great guest. His Majesty King Husayn accompanied Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness Prince Philip to the dais. The band played the British and Jordanian royal anthems. His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth then inspected a guard of honor representing the various formations of the Jordanian Armed Forces, including the ground forces, the Navy, and the Air Force.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and his royal highness the duke of Edinburgh then shook hands with the senior officials, including the speakers of the Senate and the House of Representative, the deputy prime minister and interior minister, the ministers, the dean of the diplomatic corps in Amman, the ambassadors of the EEC in Amman, and senior civilian and military officials.

Visits Queen Zayn ash-Sharaf

JN261618 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Amman — Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of Britiain and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the duke of Edinburgh, this afternoon visited Her Majesty Queen Zayn ash-Sharaf at Zahran Place. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Her Highness Princess Tharwat received her majesty the queen and his highness the prince as they arrived the hall of the palace.

Her Majesty Queen Zayn ash-Sharaf welcomed Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and His Highness Prince Philip. Their majesties the queens had a cordial talk.

Meets Press, U.K. Residents

JN261946 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of Britain and His Highness Prince Philip, the duke of Edinburgh, met at the British ambassador's residence in Amman this evening with representatives of the local and foreign media and press who are covering the visit of her majesty the queen and his highness the prince to Jordan. During the meeting, her majesty the queen talked with the representatives and expressed her appreciation for the interest the media and press institutions are showing in her visit.

In another development, her majesty the queen and His Highness Prince Philip met at the British ambassador's residence with the British community in Amman.

The British ambassador in Amman, the embassy staff, and the accompanying delegation attended both meetings.

Husayn Banquet Speech

JN262144 Amman Television Service in English 2020 GMT 26 Mar 84

["Text" of speech by King Husayn delivered in Arabic at dinner banquet in honor of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip in Amman on 26 March, processed from superimposed English translation — video recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful,the compassionate.

Your Majesty, Your Royal Highness: It gives Queen Nur and myself the greatest pleasure to welcome Your Majesty Your Royal Highness Prince Philip, duke of Edinburgh, and the accompanying delegation. It is also a privilege for me to express the warm welcome of the government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the pride they feel on the occasion of your state visit.

We have long looked forward for this opportunity to reciprocate to you and through you to the British people the feelings of friendship and gracious hospitality that are always accorded to us in your country. This day will be recorded in the history of Jordan as it marks the first visit here by a British sovereign. It crowns the friendly relations between our two peoples and it will be treasured for a very long time to come.

Your Majesty, the close ties existing between our countries today are the result of the continuous contact between our peoples throughout a long period of time. The explorer, the trader, the scholar, as well as the soldier and the statesman have contributed to forging these links. Such relations, developing as they did for a long span of time, were bound to lead to many different kinds of shared experiences. It is natural that these relations should have come deep and intimate that our two peoples should come to share common principles, values, ideas, and interests.

Your Majesty's visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is particularly a happy addition to a series of pleasant memories and experiences. We both came to the throne and assumed the mantle of leadership in the service of our two peoples in the same year. Since then so many things have happened and so many challenges have arisen. This historical coincidence has brought us closer together and has been reflected in better understanding and stronger ties between our peoples and countries.

Your Majesty, our peoples today are developing their relations on the basis of friendship, frankness, mutual respect, and cooperation in many fields. Both uphold the principles of justice, tolerance, respect, the freedom of the individual responsibly exercised, integrity, and honesty. Our peoples respect serious productive work and encourage individual initiative and creativity. They uphold the principles of mutual support and solidarity among all sections of society as well as cooperation and coexistence among states and peoples.

The Jordanian people, who are proud of their Arab, Islamic identity and the mission of the great Arab revolt, and who wish to promote cultural exchanges with the rest of the world, recall with pride and appreciation that the English language was and still is their main outlet on the modern world. The pioneers of innovation in Jordan acquired their knowledge in British universities and institutions. I was one of them. The cultural contacts between us are still marked by vitality and vigor.

Your Majesty, we live in Jordan as one cohesive family and act on the basis of the broad participation that is enshrined in our democratic institutions. We strive to build a developed modern society enjoying prosperity, stability, and faith. We aspire to the fulfillment of justice and peace, especially in this important area which has suffered from injustice in the past and continues to do so. We look forward to an intensification of efforts to achieve these humanitarian and noble objectives. We address in particular the sense of justice of the British people. We appreciate their courageous views and their keenness to eliminate the injustice arising from errors of the past from which the Palestinian people are still suffering and for which Jordan, more than any other country, has to pay the price. We are certain that our joint efforts, our commitment to the principles of right and justice, and our adherence to the United Nations Charter and international law will eventually be successful and bring about a just and durable peace in the area as well as prosperity to its peoples and to the whole world at large.

Your Majesty, in the coming few days I, together with the Jordanian people, will have the honor of welcoming you and the delegation accompanying Your Majesty into our homes and hearts. You will have the opportunity to see the different aspects which make up the true picture of our country and people through our eduational, cultural, economic, and social institutions. You will also enjoy the beauty of the land of Jordan and its historical sites which connect us to our past, deepen our sense of identity, and provide us with the momentum towards further progress.

I earnestly hope that Your Majesty will carry with you the happiest memories that a visit of two friends can create. Jordan is proud of having you, Your Majesty, a distinguished guest on her land and holds your person in high esteem and admiration, since you represent the truest, the best, and the most magnificent of the attributes of your people and symbolize and embody the inspiring an unifying strenth of a great nation. You are welcome in Jordan and in the mdst of her people — a people who appreciate the friendship of the British people who share with me the sincerity of these feelings and join with me in wishing you welcome.

May I be permitted to call upon the distinguished guests to rise and join with me in greeting Your Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, with your wishes for the continued good health and happiness of Your Majesty and Your Royal Highness Prince Philip, duke of Edinburgh. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Queen's Banquet Address

JN262148 Amman Television Service in English 2028 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Speech by Queen Elizabeth II at dinner banquet hosted in her honor by King Husayn in Amman on 26 March — video recorded]

[Text] Your Majesties: From this first evening of my visit to Jordan, may I begin by thanking Your Majesties on behalf of Prince Philip and myself for your kindness in inviting us to visit Jordan. It is a very special pleasure and privilege for us both to be here as your guests. This visit to Jordan fulfills a life-long ambition. For me, as for so many of my people, Jordan is a country where legend and history meet. The ruins of its ancient cities such as Petra and Jarash have been an inspiration to travelers over the centuries. Its landscapes of incomparable beauty are steeped in sacred memories. For it was here, where the desert meets the cultivated land, that the prophets of the great monotheistic religions drew their inspirations. We look forward to seeing as much as we can during the full and interesting program you have prepared for our visit.

But Jordan also represents much more than this for us. Your Majesty, your family's name and dynasty are forever linked with the great Arab revolt and with the movement for the independence of the Arab peoples, in which your great grandfather, your grandfather, and so many other distinguished members of the Hashemite family played prominent roles. My country too was closely involved in those momentous events and in Jordan's early years of nationhood. We recall with pride the British officers and men who fought alongside the Arabs in their war of liberation; the part played by Britain in the movement of Trans-Jordan, as it was then called, toward independence; and the role of those dedicated British officials, both military and civil, who served your grandfather at that time. We also had reason in those years to know the staunchness of your friendship, and we shall not forget that in the darkest hours of the Second World War King 'Abdullah placed Jordan at Britain's side in the defense of freedom. Your grandfather wrote in his memoirs on the warm welcome, family affection, sincere friendship, and firm trust which he felt when visiting my father and mother at Balmoral. I can find no better words to describe our feelings as we visit Jordan as your guests.

Your Majesty, you and I came to the throne in the same year. For both our countries, the 32 years which have followed have been a period of change and challenges. For our part, we have greatly admired the way in which you have guided your country through so many difficulties. In doing so, you have come to symbolize for us those qualities of courage and statemenship which have made that achievement possible. In an area of turbulence and of almost continuous and tragic confict, you have

made Jordan a beacon of stability and orderly progress, concentrating on the welfare of your people and setting a shiny exaple to others facing similar problems.

The world has been deeply impressed by your efforts, in the face of so many discouragements and setbacks, to achieve a negotiated settlement of the problems of the Middle East, so that all countries and peoples of the area may enjoy the benefits of peace, justice, and security.

The relations between our two countries are close and friendly, and we discuss our problems frankly with each other as old friends should. With our partners in the Commonwealth and in Europe, we shall continue to work for ever closer collaboration and friendship with nations which believe as we do; but the inevitable differences which arise between states should be settled peacfully, through negotiations, rather than through conflict.

The tragedy which has befallen the Palestinian peopic affects no country more than Jordan. My government will continue to support all constructive efforts to achieve a peaceful, just, and lasting solution to this problem in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations Organization.

I have followed with the closest interest the progress which has been made in Jordan in education and the provision of social services, in the development of industry and agriculture, in the exploitation of Jordan's natural resources, and in the rapid expansion of your network of communications. I am proud of the significant role which Britain, with many other countries whose representatives are here this evening, has played and continues to play in all these fields; and that so many British people, some of whom I met this afternoon, are warking here on projects which bring benefit to both our countries. They live here happily and safely, enjoying the warm hospitality and friendship of the Jordanian people. They share with you the pride you rightly feel, that so much has been accomplished in so short a time. So, Your Majesty, my message in coming here is one of admiration, friendship, and support. We salute you and your people, and we wish you all good fortune in the years to come.

I have great pleasure in proposing a toast to His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan, to Her Majesty Queen Nur, and to the health and propserity of the people of Jordan.

Husayn's British TV Interview

JN261701 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that the United States cannot contribute to the establishment of a just and durable peace in the Middle East because of the strong Zionist and Israeli influence in the United States. In a statement to British morning television, his majesty said that his recent statements on U.S. policy in the region came as a result of the setbacks, frustrations, and deterioration of the situation in the region after the U.S. role to establish a permanent and just peace in the region had become impotent, a matter which prompted him to place facts in front of the American people.

Replying to a question on the Palestine question, His Majesty King Husayn said: The Middle East is an important and strategic region due to its geographical location and natural resources. Unfortunately, this part of the world has suffered and is still suffering as a result of the Israeli aggression against the Arab nation. He said that the Palestine question, the suffering of the Palestinian people, and the disavowal of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights are the essential reason for instability in the Middle East. Therefore, he said, the peoples of this vital world area are facing challenges that hamper their advancement.

His majesty said that Jordan has been facing challenges for years with confidence and steadiness. He added: I am confident that the region's peoples will eventually overcome the challenges and difficulties and join hands with Jordan to secure a better future for the coming generations. His majesty indicated that keeping the Palestine question unsolved will make people lose hope in peace, and then we will all be facing a grave danger.

His majesty said that the region is facing the danger of polarization — a danger which we have resisted for a long time because it constitutes a threat to our identity, freedom, and the future of our generations. His Majesty King Husayn said that Britain and the European group can play an effective role in establishing peace in the Middle East thanks to these countries' experience and awareness of the region's problems.

British morning television also interviewed Her Majesty Queen Nur, who talked about the results of her visit to the United States.

Envoy Urges EEC Initiative

JN260910 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Mar 84

[Interview with Hani Tabbarah, newly appointed ambassador to United Kingdom, conducted "last week" in London by Tara Bradford and which appeared on page one of British supplement issued by *JORDAN TIMES* on the occasion of Queen Elizabeth's visit]

[Text] Q: What do you think is the significance of Her Majesty's visit as far as political relationships between the United Kingdom and Jordan are concerned, bearing in mind that the Queen is not a political figure?

A: The Queen's visit to Jordan will represent a symbolic affirmation of the long and common association and friendship between our two countries. He Majesty the Queen manifests the highest values of Britain, whose dealings with all other nations are characterised by a sense of fairness and justice. Britain is a nation that has close links with many Arab countries; it has an intimate knowledge and experience of the Middle East; it enjoys an eminent stature in the world and is in a position of influence in international diplomacy.

Q: What is the nature of talks that will take place during Her Majesty's visit?

A: It should be kept in mind that the Queen is returning His Majesty King Husayn's state visit that he made to the United

Kingdom in 1966. His Majesty and Her Majesty enjoy a close personal friendship.

Q: What can be done to strengthen political relationship between the two countries?

A: The political role of Britain vis-a-vis the Middle East can be seen in two contexts: First, the close relationship of britain with the United States and the possible influence that can be exerted on behalf of the Arab cause. Second, Britain, acting with the European Economic Community (EEC) was instrumental in the formulation of the Venice Declaration and made considerable efforts towards furthering the declaration when Lord Carrington assumed the EEC presidency. We hope that Britain will exert its influence within the EEC to launch a new European initative, emphasising that a just and durable Middle East settlement is totally in accord with Europe's vital interests. European involvement is also important to avoid the polarization of our area by providing a counterbalance to the superpowers.

Q: Are you saying Britain should try to influence the United States' foreign policy in the Middle East?

A: It will be worthwhile for the British government to use whatever influence it might have to affect a more balanced American policy towards the Middle East.

Q: Two years ago, the EEC was actively involved in the formulation of a Middle East peace solution. Now the Venice Declaration and efforts by the European Community seem to have lost momentum. Do you really expect such efforts to be revived?

A: We hope the EEC will regain momentum. We have always been advocates of a more positive role and involvement of Europe as regards the Middle East problem.

Q: With the United States preocupied with a presidential election and the EEC plagued with serious internal economic and other problems, where does that leave the Middle East question on the list of priorities in the West?

A: Right, and this is exactly what we do not want — this preocupation and involvement with internal or regional politics with powers who can exert influence and can help solve the problems, but we are in no position to change this fact, only to appeal for them to have understanding and appreciate the urgency of the situation.

Q: Will this be one of the items on the agenda for discussion between His Majesty King Husayn and British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe?

A: Yes, definitely it will be discussed.

Q: If Jordan does not receive the help it seeks from the West, both in resolving the Palestinian question and in securing its military needs and other types of aid, will it approach the Soviet Union for assistance?

A: It was emphasised by His Majesty (in an interview last week with the *NEW YORK TIMES)* that we are in a position we should and must look everywhere. We are giving the West every opportunity to help us and if they do not choose to accept this chance, then we must seek other alternatives.

Q: Is there a specific time framework within which Jordan would expect some type of positive response from the West?

A: Of course, the sooner the better, because the Israelis are doing everything possible to create new situations where it would be very difficult for any effort to be successful. It is their (Israelis') intention to prevent good powers from helping us.

Q: Do you expect success of a renewed Jordanian-Palestinian effort towards a Middle East peace strategy? Recent meetings between King Husayn and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat appear to indicate hopes for such a joint effort.

A: Palestinian participation in important and vital. There should be a very real commitment and participation by the Palestinians. Outside an arrangement (between King Husayn and PLO Chairman 'Arafat), the Palestinian participation in any peace process, initiated by any country, is important and vital.

Radio Commentary on Relations

JN262120 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1620 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Today Jordan received Queen Elizabeth II of Britain and her husband the duke of Edinburgh with affection. The visit is taking place in an environment full of affection toward the guest queen and her country, with which we have enjoyed distinguished relations for dozens of years. These relations are developing constantly.

Despite the Israeli propaganda which has coincided with the royal visit, aimed at portraying the situation in Jordan in a way contrary to reality, Jordan has proved that the security, tranquillity, and stability which it enjoys place Jordan at the top of the countries in the region and the world. This visit, the first which Queen Elizabeth II has paid to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, is considered a historic one. We hope that the results of this visit will meet the expectations in the various spheres.

The history of Jordanian-British relations began with the establishment of the East Bank amirate. Throughout the past 60 years, these relations have been bolstered until they reached their current state of progress in the economic, cultural, and commercial spheres, and of strength in friendship and understanding in various spheres.

With Jordan's concern about developing its relations and strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation with the United Kingdom, the visit by Queen Elizabeth II to Jordan

expresses the spirit of understanding between both countries and crowns the existing friendship between them and their mutual respect and confidence.

The visit by the queen of Britain will open new opportunities for strengthening the political relations between the two countries. We can note the British political role in the region — a vital and prominent role — through Britain's ability to change the U.S. stand which is biased toward Israel and to interpret its commitments toward the region's crisis through the Venice declaration of the EEC. This is in addition to the distinguished stands which Britain does not hesitate to announce every now and then.

Hence, we view the historic visit which Queen Elizabeth and her husband the duke of Edinburgh are paying to Jordan through the relations between the two countries and through the role the United Kingdom can adopt within the EEC and with the United States in a positive way vis-a-vis the region's crisis. In addition to this, Britain, as a known international power which has a history in the region and which had a great role in the origin and the developments of the Palestine cause, and as a permenent UN Security Council member, assumes ethical and historical responsibilities for contributing seriously and effectively in achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

TIMES: U.K. Sets Example

JN270757 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Mar p 4

[Editorial: "The Virtues We Admire"]

[Text] The state visit to Jordan this week of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth is a happy occasion for the people of Jordan and the United Kingdom, for both symbolic and practical reasons. The symbolism comes from the realisation that Queen Elizabeth and King Husayn between them have reigned and ruled for an astonishing total of over 60 years. The lessons of those many years for both countries has been clear: public policies that avoid political extremes and keep their focus on improving the material and spiritual wellbeing of the citizenry are policies that will provide the only real security that any nation could aspire to achieve. Both the United Kingdom and Jordan are countries that know the limits to their real ability to influence events around them. Neither suffers from the megalomanial visions of other powers in the Arab World or around the North Atlantic. That Queen Elizabeth should make a state visit to Jordan now is a reaffirmation of the close political attitudes and human aspirations of both people, as these have endured over many decades.

On the more practical side, the visit emphasises the good working relationship between Jordan and the United Kingdom in all fields, including the political. One of the virtues of the British that we have always admired is the ability to snap back from an error and do right with other people. Thus it is gratifying to see British policy in the Middle East today based on the logical principle of granting the Palestinians the right to national self-determination, despite the fact that in the early years of this century the British themselves had a conspicuously less glorious history of involvement with the Palestine issue. The Queen's visit reminds us of the famed British penchant for truth, accuracy and reason, in the end. Other Western powers would do well to learn from Great Britain.

27 March Press Comment

JN271056 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Mar 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Distinquished Relationship and the Common Objective," *AD-DUSTUR* says: The most important thing this official visit represents — a visit which Jordan has has waited a long time for — is that it stresses the distinguished ties between the Jordanian and British peoples that are based on friendship, mutual respect, and commitment to the same values and high ideals. This has produced the best and strongest relations between the two friendly peoples.

Queen Elizabeth's visit to Jordan today gives a new dimension to the rapprochement and good relations and deepens the intimacy between our two friendly peoples. The credit for this goes to His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. Jordan, which under His Majesty King Husayn has taken large strides on the road of progress in all fields of development and modernization and achieved prosperity and stability, aspires to peace and justice in this troubled region of the world. This requires the mobilization of all international efforts to achieve such a noble and human objective.

Jordan, while firmly and contentedly seeks to achieve that objective, realizes that Britain has a pioneering role to play in this regard whether through its responsibilities as a superpower that has permanent membership in the UN Security Council or through the EC, all of whose states have the best economic and cultural relations with the region. The EC states are also linked to the region because of their responsibility for achieving peace since the region's security affects the European Continent.

AD-DUSTUR adds: The occasion of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's presence in our country is a good opportunity to reiterate His Majesty King Husayn's call on the sense of justice of the British people and on this friendly people to eliminate the injustice arising from errors of the past from which the Palestinian people are still suffering and for which our country more than any other country has to pay the price. Thus, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's expression yesterday of the Palestinian people's tragedy and her majesty's emphasis that the British Government will continue all constructive efforts aimed at achieving a just and durable peaceful solution to this problem in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter give us hope for a just and honorable peace in the region — a peace that would grant the people of the Middle East deep confidence in the possibility of achieving justice and lifting the injustice from those who have been harmed for long years.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: While warmly welcoming Jordan's great guest and while we are pleased that her majesty will see the great progress that our country has achieved in all fields, we are confident that the friendship between the Jordanian and British

peoples will, through this visit, promote the interests of our countries and will be in service of a just peace, and our joint ideals and values.

On the same subject, *AR-RA'Y* says: In the speeches His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II exchanged, the strength and sincerity of the relations between the British and Jordanian peoples and Britain and Jordan have become clear. If during his welcoming speech His Majesty King Husayn was concerned about pointing to the wide scope of British-Jordanian principles, values, and joint interests, Jordan's great guest was also concerned about this significance. Her speech about Jordan, its people and leadership included personal feelings that basically reflected the guest queen's appreciation, admiration, and cordiality toward this good country. Both speeches were full of the same ideas. They touched on the great miracle that our country has achieved through its steadfastness, progress, and confrontation of the difficulties and challenges, the basis of this steadfastness and confrontation that descended from the great Arab revolution; the injustice against this region and the Palestinian Arab people, their rights and tragedy, and the negative and direct effect of this tragedy on Jordan as an independent country that is concerned about peace and justice.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, regarding the Palestinian question, stressed the importance of achieving a just and durable peaceful solution in accordance with the UN Charter and principles. In her speech, regarding the negative effect that the continuation of injustice would bring to Jordan in particular, Jordan's great guest stressed Britain's admiration, friendship, and support. In return, His Majesty King Husayn appealed to the sense of justice that the British people are known for in order to contribute toward eliminating injustice and restoring the rights of those who suffered injustice in accordance with the British and Jordanian peoples' aspiration for peace and justice in this region and in every part of our world.

AR-RA'Y concludes: While welcoming Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, duke of Edinburgh, we hope that their visit to our country will contribute to knowing us better and realizing that we are sincerely concerned about peace in the same measure that we are concerned about justice, our rights, and about not harming any one. The realization of such an objective would give Britain the opportunity to play a greater role within the EC regarding work for a just peace and durable stability in a region that is adjacent to Europe and has deep interests with it. As His Majesty King Husayn pointed out yesterday, Jordan and Britain agree on a large range of principles, values, and ideals.

Amman Radio Quotes Husayn's TIME Interview

JN262010 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that the United States' unique stands in Israel's favor are taking place at our expense. Unless the United States adopts a more balanced stand in the region, relations between the United States and the Arab world cannot be normal.

In an interview with the American *TIME* magazine published today, his majesty said: The Israeli influence within the U.S. Congress is a real tragedy. There is also a double standard approach in U.S. stands. For instance, the fedayeen in Afghanistan are called mujahidin or freedom fighters, while the United States considers the Palestinians to be terrorists with no rights.

His majesty pointed out that his talks with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat were constructive. He said: We will go ahead in our efforts to alleviate the immense pressure on the people under occupation and to liberate the land.

Answering a question on U.S. policy, his majesty said: The problem is not connected with the U.S. President himself, for whom I harbor great esteem. I think he is committed to the cause of peace. However, what happened is that the whole picture in Washington has greatly changed. The Israeli influence in Congress is immense. I do not know how this can serve U.S. national interests. It is a real tragedy. Had I known that it was necessary for the President to attend a United Jewish Appeal meeting and to enlist their help to assist him in implementing a Stinger missile deal for us, I would not have asked the President that. If the U.S. elections and the U.S. constituencies are so important, can't people realize that we also have our constituencies, that the pro-Israel U.S. stands are at our expense, and that this expense is diminishing because we are your friends? Unless the United States takes a more balanced position based on the U.S. national interests in the region, relations between the United States and the Arab world cannot become normal.

On the pressure being exerted to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, his majesty said: Why does this issue emerge at this particular time and at the initiative of Congress rather than the U.S. Government? This is the sad situation in which we are finding ourselves. Israel is able to receive weapons, grants, aid, and other forms of assistance without question. Furthermore, Israel has the right to veto anything that the United States decides to offer its Arab friends.

There are also double standards in the approach to all these issues, for instance, your stand toward the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Why are the fedayeen there called mujahidin or freedom fighters while the Palestinians are considered by the United States to be terrorists with no rights? And the settlements — the United States in the past described the settlements as illegal. It then described them as constituting obstacles. Now the United States describes them as a mere hinderance. It may soon describe them as an inflammation or dust in the eye.

On the PLO, his majesty said: My talks with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat were constructive. I will try to convince the PLO to take a path that will lead to a situation where both of us can contribute to the cause of peace in the region and alleviate the immense pressures on our people under occupation and liberate the land. As for our being ready to negotiate or not, we find the situation aggravated when we see the Israeli settlements in the West Bank. We find such a situation intolerable.

On the Lebanese situation and the Syrian role there, his majesty said: I think that what happened in Lebanon threatens Syria, which includes a number of elements that are similar to the Lebanese elements. Jordan is careful not to fall prey to the process of disintegration that is spreading in the region. Our independence, Arab character, and identity as a people are in danger. In 1970 we faced a Syrian invasion; in 1980 we were about to face another invasion. A minor incident could have created an all-out war. It is possible for such a thing to be repeated.

On the Soviets, his majesty said: The United States is in a position that qualifies it to make peace initiatives in the Middle East, something which the Soviet Union is lacking. However, the Soviet Union can confront any peace initiative to which it is not a party. Why don't we make them a party to the issue?

On the increasing wave of Muslim fundamentalism, his majesty said: I believe that this is a direct reaction to the suffering, humiliation, and many frustrations to which the peoples of the region have been subjected. Such a wave will constitute a threat when external sides control it. I think that a man's faith is a major force. However, it is a very serious issue. I do not think that what is escalating in this region has any relation to religion or faith. I do not support such a thing. It is unjustified and has no relation to religion whatsoever.

Dailies on Parliament's Condemnation of U.S.

JN260942 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 26 Mar 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Joint Arab Action," *AR-RA'Y* says: The House of Representatives yesterday condemned the United States' policy and continuous alliance with the Zionist enemy in the interest of its expansionist plans and objectives. The House's condemnation of this policy followed His Majesty King Husayn's statements in which he revealed the loss of U.S. credibility and Washington's persistence in assisting and supporting the enemy on the one hand and purposely abandoning its role as a superpower on the other. The frank condemnation, which has been unanimously approved by the House of Representatives, also serves as an occasion to call on all our Arab and Muslim brothers and all friends to act together to cofnront the Zionist plot against the land and the citizens in the occupied Arab territories. The behavior of a superpower like the United States in supporting aggression and occupation, backing the enemy's fallacies, and providing it with all the means of strength and arrogance makes it incumbent on the Arabs first, and the international community in general, to adopt a serious and mature stand in order to expose the Zionist plot and the big gap between the principles which Washington proclaims and U.S. practices in this region.

AR-RA'Y continues: The House of Representatives' assertion of the importance of convening an international peace conference to be attended by the five big powers under the aegis of the United Nations is fresh testimony that the United States has never been concerned about peace in our region and that it has not assumed, with even a minimum of responsibility and courage, its duty toward stability, right, and justice. More than that, and as events have established, the U.S. role has remained a time-saving factor for the implementation of the Zionist plot and the completion of the settlement and Judaization plans. His Majesty King Husayn's statements on this role and the extent to which Washington has gone in its strategic alliance have come at the appropriate time to place everyone before their responsibilities.

AR-RA'Y concludes: It remains for the Arabs to realize the importance of joint action at this phase and also the importance of facing the alliance of the enemies with all the loyalty to this nation and all the devotion to its existence. It is certain that the international community will be able to play its full role when we succeed in establishing the firm basis for joint confrontation and when we place before it the fact that we are a nation that is concerned about peace and also determined to make every sacrifice for the sake of its rights and honor.

Under the headline "An Expression of the Nation's Conscience," *AD-DUSTUR* says: Through the House of Representatives, the Jordanian people yesterday expressed their deep unamimous feelings when they firmly and strongly condemned the U.S. role in the Arab region and denounced U.S. policy based on backing Israeli aggression against the Arabs. It is indeed a good gesture that, in its first session after filling its vacant seats, the House of Representatives expressed the Jordanian people's hostile feelings toward such U.S. policy and interpreted precisely this people's bitterness toward Washington's stands in supporting and assisting Israeli aggression without the slightest regard for the values and principles which the United States has preached for a long time. Just as the Jordanians — leaders and people — feel that U.S. bias toward Israel and continuous support for Israeli aggression has made the United States lose all credibility, the House made it a point yesterday to underscore the serious consequences of such a development, especially since it is connected with the position of a superpower whose relinquishment of its international obligations has turned it, in the eyes of the peoples in the Arab region, into a state which cannot be trusted to adopt the neutral stand required of a mediator in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

AD-DUSTUR says: Therefore, Jordan's call for an international peace conference to discuss means of defusing the explosive situation in the region and achieving an honorable peaceful settlement is in complete harmony with the facts of the situation in the region. After concluding a strategic cooperation agreement with Israel, the United States is no longer qualified to play the role of mediator in this conflict, nor is it suited to assume international responsibility after its blind bias toward the aggressive side in this conflict. The House of Representatives, which reflected a true and sincere picture of the Jordanian people's attitude toward the United States, was inspired in this stand by the courageous stand of His Majesty King Husayn, a stand which the leader of our march expressed with full strength and political astuteness in a series of statements and interviews directed to the American people.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: Thus, Jordan — leadership and people — has spoken its clear word on U.S. policy toward the region. It behooves the entire Arab nation to not only back the Jordanian stand, but also face up to the challenges by unifying the ranks of this nation against all the dangers and plots being hatched against it.

PRC Reportedly To Supply Arms, Advisers

PM270827 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 24-30 Mar 84 p 3

[From *"AL-MAJALLAH* Correspondents' Dispatches"]

[Text] According to sources close to the Jordanian Foreign Ministry, it was agreed during PRC President Li Xiannian's recent visit to Jordan that the Jordanian Army is to be supplied with Chinese arms. Also, Chinese experts will train the Army in the use of these arms.

The sources also drew attention to the PRC foreign minister's press conference before leaving Amman at which he said that there is no chance of a peaceful settlement with Israel, that the only option is armed struggle, and that the PRC is prepared to support any Arab military confrontation with Israel.

Information Minister on PLO Talks, Arab Affairs

JN261209 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Mar 84 pp 1, 29

[Text] Amman — Information Minister Layla Sharaf has stated that during the Jordanian-Palestinian talks it was agreed to carry out joint action and to form several committees for contacting the brother Arabs and reactivating the cause on the international level.

In an interview with *AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI*, the Jordanian minister added that the only objective of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks was to come to an agreement on the broadlines of the moves and that each party has put forth its visualization of the dangers which engulf the cause and the Arab homeland.

Sharaf added: We agreed that the Palestinian cause concerns Palestine and Jordan before anyone else and that we cannot address the Arabs with general ideas and tell them to support us. The information minister said: We agreed on several points and on the formation of committees in various spheres in the near future.

Layla Sharaf said that there is an agreement on the nature of the unionist link between Jordan and the territories that will be liberated.

On the Arab summit, the information minister said: We were greatly distressed by the postponement of this summit because we need such a conference in these circumstances more than at other time.

On the abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement Sharaf said: We are against any agreement that will harm the dignity of any Arab country. Israel must withdraw from Lebanese territory and must not encroach on Lebanon's independence and entity.

Sharaf stressed that Jordan does not support separate solutions and added: We believe in a comprehensive and just peace.

On the Iraqi-Iranian war Sharaf said that this battle is the Arab nation's battle, and not only Iraq's; it is a battle to defend the borders of the Arab homeland. She added: We hope that the material and moral support for Iraq will be comprehensive. We cannot predict when this war will end because there are economic, military, and political considerations. Iraq is capable of standing fast. Iran should be aware of this and realize that the danger it will face in the end will be greater.

Briefs

Ambassadors' Transfer— Amman, 22 Mar (PETRA) — The Council of Ministers has decided to transfer Ambassadors Musa al-Kilani, Suhayl at-Tal, Husayn Hamami, and Khalid Madadhah from Sudan, Spain, Syria, and Greece respectively to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Amman. [Text][Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1405 GMT 22 Mar 84 JN]

Al-Jumayyil Expected To Call Meeting Within 2 Days

NC270633 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Consultations and contacts will continue today on more than one level preparatory to translating the Lausanne conference resolutions into deeds, particularly those pertaining to the formation of the Higher Security-Political Committee under the chairmanship of President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil. This committee will work for a comprehensive cease-fire prior to the appointment of its constituent committee members to be agreed upon by President al-Jumayyil and the members of the Dialogue Committee.

Sources close to the regime expect President al-Jumayyil to invite the Higher Security-Political Committee agreed upon in Lausanne to a meeting within the next 48 hours to discuss measures to consolidate the calm, particularly on the contact lines, and to disengage the forces. It may also announce a comprehensive cease-fire. Within this framework, informed sources reported that Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri expressed to those concerned his readiness to participate in the meeting. Dr Haytham Jum'ah and Dr Ayyub Humayid will reportedly represent him on the committee. Walid Junblatt, Progressive Socialist Party leader, also informed the regime of his readiness to participate. He may name former Minister Marwan Hamadah and Lieutenant Colonel Sharif Fayyad as his representatives to the committee. These sources spoke about clear Syrian cooperation to facilitate the implementation of the security measures. Arrivals from Damascus reported an encouraging atmosphere and satisfaction over the contacts held by advisers to the president of the Republic Jean 'Ubayd and Michel Samahah with Syrian officials and a number of opposition leaders, who in turn met with Syrian officials in Damascus.

Presidential Envoy Meets Al-Jumayyil on Return

NC261921 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Jean 'Ubayd, personal envoy of the president of the Republic, returned to Beirut from Damascus at noon today. He immediately proceeded to B'abda Palace where he was received by President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil at 1230. 'Ubayd apprised the president of the results of the talks he had with senior Syrian officials in Damascus, especially with President Hafiz al-Asad and Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim joined the meeting later.

AL-MUSTAQBAL Interviews Lebanese President

JN261106 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 24 Mar 84 pp 16,17

[Interview with President Amin al-Jumayyil by *AL-MUSTAQBAL* correspondent Shukri Nasrallah in Lausanne — date not given]

[Excerpts] *AL-MUSTAQBAL*: Conference circles stress the difficulty that is pervading the conference is one of political sectarianism, and some tend to believe the abolishment of this sectarianism will lead to one party gaining the upper hand; that is, one community will have the upper hand over the other communities. Would you explain this?

President al-Jumayyil: The abolishment of political sectarianism is a difficult and thorny issue. However, if all the parties agree to abolish it, then we will do so, if not today, then tomorrow. However, we must together attempt to remove the fears of those that this would allow one community to enjoy more rights than the others. Our duty is to remove all the causes for such fears, whether regarding the Christians or Muslims. If we succeed in this, there will no longer be any sectarian problems. What is important is that good intentions exist to work for the rebuilding of the homeland.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: May we understand from this that you support the abolishment of political sectarianism?

President al-Jumayyil: Personally, as president of the Republic, I cannot and do not want to be other than an arbiter between the parties. If they come to an agreement on an issue, we will bless it. If they differ on something, our duty is to seek the removal of the causes of these differences.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: There is a clear contradiction in your stand. On one side, you are the president of the Republic, and on the other you are the son of the leader of the Phalange Party, a primary figure in these differences. How do you explain this?

President al-Jumayyil: Since you have brought up the subject, I would like to make this clear once and for all. Amin al-Jumayyil as president of the Republic has not, and will never, experience this contradiction which you have raised. It is difficult for people to believe this. However, I would like to reaffirm here that this has not even once taken place in the period since my election as president. I will not be revealing a secret if I tell you that I spent most of my time at the Lausanne conference as an arbiter among all the parties, whether it is Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil or the head of any other delegation. Let anyone come forward and tell me when and how have I been with Pierre al-Jumayyil, the father, more than I have been with Lebanon and with all the Lebanese sons.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: What did President al-Asad promise you during your meeting, and what have you brought back with you from Damascus?

President al-Jumayyil: Despite all the difficulties which we have experienced, my relationship with President al-Asad is old and solid. Contacts between us were not interrupted during the events. President al-Asad promised me that he will support Lebanon. He also told me that Syria has no regional designs in Lebanon; that it wants peace and what is good for Lebanon; that it is eager to see Lebanon completely liberated; and that it will help Lebanon in its efforts to liberate southern Lebanon. In light of this, the Syrian Army will withdraw from Lebanon.

On the Lebanese level, President al-Asad promised me that Syria will put all its weight to achieve Lebanon's interests and render the Lausanne conference a success on solid, firm, and permanent

bases. President al-Asad sent his first deputy, Brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, to Lausanne to help in achieving this, and emphasized to him that he must do his best to bring the viewpoints of the various disputing Lebanese parties closer together. The conference was held thanks to Syrian contribution and insistence on the need for Lebanon to regain its vitality and definitely turn over the page of death and destruction.

President al-Asad also promised me that Syria will support the future national unity government, that it does not support one party against the other, and that it does not want a vanguished and a victor.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: You spoke about security arrangements with Israel. What do you mean by this?

President al-Jumayyil: We abrogated the 17 May agreement because of our realization that the Lebanese people did not want it, particularly after Israel declined to withdraw. Therefore, we must seek a security formula between Lebanon and Israel that will protect our international borders without infringing our sovereignty, and simultaneously speed up the Israeli Army's withdrawal from Lebanon. This can be discussed by specialized mixed committees under international supervision to secure Lebanon's sovereignty and prevent any infiltrations into Israel's northern areas. We will work for an increase in the number of UN troops in southern Lebanon to assist our young army to safeguard our sovereignty over our territory.

More Reaction, Policy Regarding French Withdrawal

More Soldiers Leave

NC261655 Paris AFP in English 1643 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Beirut, March 26 (AFP) — A total of 59 French soldiers and 23 vehicles were loaded today at the port of Beirut on board the tank landing ship *Dives*, a French military source said.

There now remain 1,007 French soldiers and 100 gendarmes in Beirut, said the source, noting that the gendarmes will remain as guards at the French ambassador's residence and the annex to the chancellery in B'abda, an eastern suburb of Beirut.

France is currently withdrawing what was the last remaining contingent of the Multinational Peacekeeping Force in Lebanon, which also had British, Italian, and American troops.

Security Committee on Departure

NC261455 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The four-member Security Arrangements Committee held a session this morning with all members attending. They are: Amal representative Dr Ayyub Humayyid; National Salvation Front representative Wahbah Abu Fa'ur; Lebanese Forces representative Jean Abu Nazir; and Army Command representative Colonel Jean Nasif. The meeting was held at the headquarters of the French contingent at the Beirut race course. The committee continued studying the withdrawal of the French contingent operating in Beirut. The committee praised the role that contingent has played and the efforts it has made. As a result of its deliberations, the committee decided:

1. That the area in which the French contingent is now present be regarded neutral, and that the Museum-Al-Barbir Road be kept free to travel.

2. That an Internal Security Force be stationed in positions now occupied by the French contingent, and that the authorities concerned be urged to prepare and equip this Internal Security Force in order for it to take over these positions from the French force before it withdraws.

3. That the parties pledge not to seize the opportunity to improve their positions, nor do anything that could provoke sensitivities and apprehensions.

While meeting, the committee received French Ambassador to Lebanon Fernand Wibaux, who emphasized his government's eagerness to have this arrangement succeed. He informed the conferees of his government's agreement to send observers soon to carry out pacification duties in the coming phase.

Al-Wazzan Contacts ISF Head

NC261942 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has asked Brigadier General 'Uthman 'Uthman, acting director general of the Internal Security Forces, to provide the necessary men in connection with the Security Arrangements Committee's decision to have such a force replace the French force in the museum area. The prime minister also asked Brig Gen 'Uthman to prepare this force and take all the necessary measures to facilitate its task.

Prime Minister Al-Wazzan, in his capacity as interior minister, earlier this afternoon met at his house with Colonel Jean Nasif, the Army's representative on the Security Arrangements Committee. Brig Gen 'Uthman attended the meeting. Col Nasif apprised the prime minister of the decision made by the Security Arrangements Committee in this respect during its meeting today.

Lebanese Forces on Withdrawal

NC270529 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The Lebanese Forces have stressed the importance of implementing the cease-fire so as to facilitate the calm required for dialogue and political discussion. They expressed the wish that contacts bear success in having the legitimate forces fill the positions that the French forces will vacate.

French Diplomat 'Critical' After Beirut Shooting

NC270941 Paris AFP in English 0933 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Beirut, March 27 (AFP) — A French diplomat was shot and seriously wounded early today on his way to the embassy in the centre of West Beirut, embassy sources said. Sauveur Gliozzo, who was secretary-general of the embassy's cultural services, was hit four times and suffered internal bleeding. He was taken to the American Hospital, where his condition was said to be critical.

French Embassy Confirms Shooting

NC271011 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The French Embassy in Beirut has announced that Sauveur Gliozzo, a diplomat at the embassy, was shot and seriously wounded this morning while on his way to work in the embassy. The embassy said that Gliozzo, the secretary for French Cultural Services, was hit by four bullets and is suffering from internal bleeding. He was taken to the American University Hospital in serious condition.

Lebanese Group Claims Attack on U.S. Consul

NC261557 Paris AFP in English 1541 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Paris, March 26 (AFP) — The Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction (LARF) today claimed in a letter to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE an attack this morning in Strasbourg, eastern France, against the U.S. consul there.

In the letter, which was [words indistinct] Consul Robert Onan Homme was "already well known for his activities as a member of the CIA (the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency)." Mr Homme was shot near his home by an unidentifed man this morning, but was not seriously wounded.

LARF has previously claimed attacks in Paris against U.S. Charge d'Affaires Christian Chapman, wounded in a shooting assault November 12, 1981; against U.S. Embassy Military Attache Lieutenant Charles R. Ray, killed on January 8, 1982; and against the second secretary of the Israeli Embassy, Yacov Barsimantov, murdered April 3, 1982.

The group, which referred in its letter to the Lebanese conflict, has also claimed an attack on August 21, 1982 against the car of the U.S. Embassy's commerical adviser, and a bomb attack on September 17, 1982 against the car of an Israeli Embassy commercial attache.

Continuing Contacts Over Situation in W. Beirut

Leaders Reach Agreement

NC260659 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0535 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Following the arrival of the delegations of the Ifta' office and Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] from Damascus, a meeting was held yesterday at 1830 at the residence of Mufti of the Republic Shaykh Hasan Khalid. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council; [former] Prime Ministers Taqiy ad-Din as-Sulh and Dr Salim al-Huss; Deputies Talal al-Mir'ibi, Zaqi Mazbudi, and Nazim al-Qadiri; former Ministers Malik Salam, Marwan Hamadah, Khalid Junblatt, and 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Labban; 'Akif Haydar, head of the Amal Movement's Political Bureau; PSP deputy leader Muhsin Dallul; Brigadier General 'Uthman 'Uthman, acting director general of the Internal Security Forces; Colonel Lutfi Jabir, commander of the Lebanese Army's 6th Brigade; several 6th Brigade officers; Brigadier General 'Umar Makhzuni, commander of the Beirut police; Colonel 'Isam Abu Zaki, commander of the Emergency Squad; and Lieutenant Colonel 'Adnan al-Ghutumi.

Invited to the meeting after 2000 were Dr Sami Sabbagh; Sinan Barraj; Hasan Habbal; Shaykh 'Abd al-Hafiz Qasim; Kamal Shatila; 'Atif ad-Durubi; Sayd Hamadah; Khalil Shihab; and 'Ali al-Haj. After the meeting, which lasted until 2300 yesterday, the following statement — which was read by Mufti of the Republic Shaykh Hasan Khalid — was issued:

In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. At 1830 on Sunday, 25 March 1984, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council; several former prime ministers, deputies, and former ministers; commanders of the Internal Security Forces and the Army's 6th Brigade; and representatives of the PSP, Amal Movement, Al-Murabitun, Union of the People's Toiling People, Independent Lebanese National Grouping, the Lebanese Islamic Resistance Front, and the Islamic National and Pan-Arab Union, met at the residence of the mufti of the Republic and in our presence.

The participants heard a report from the delegation of the Al-Fatwa office following its return from a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic and its talks with officials there. After deliberating on current political and security affairs, the participants unanimously reached the following decisions:

1. The evacuation of all areas, quarters, and streets in Beirut of gunmen of all parties and organizations by 1200 tomorrow, Monday — that is, today.

2. Internal Security Forces are to assume responsibility for maintaining security in all parts of West Beirut. They will be assisted, when necessary, by a force of the Lebanese Army's 6th Brigade.

3. A special committee is to be formed to coordinate with the security forces and Army on resolving problems that may arise.

4. The political and social offices of the parties and organizations that exist in the area are to be maintained in the hands of their proprietors without any armed manifestation.

5. The operation of the Voice of Arab Lebanon radio is to be ensured through its original equipment, and radio programs will be supervised by a special committee to be appointed by his eminence the mufti of the Lebanese Republic.

6. All the parties and organizations concerned are to abide by the above decisions.

Islamic Leaders Meet 26 Mar

NC261753 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] During the expanded meeting the Islamic leaders held today at the mufti's office, the leaders expressed their eagerness to implement the agreement that was reached in Damascus in order to emphasize the unity of the Islamic ranks and position, and remove all the causes that led to the clashes that occurred in West Beirut last Thursday and Friday.

The meeting was held at the mufti's office today at 1100 under the chairmanship of Lebanese Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid. It was attended by former Prime Ministers Sa'ib Salam, Taqiy ad-Din as-Sulh, Salim al-Huss, Rashid as-Sulh and Nazim 'Akkash; Minister Baha' ad-Din al-Bisat; former Ministers Nasib al-Barbir, Malik Salam, 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Labban, Fu'ad Al-Bizri, Muhammad Kunay'u, and Amin al-Bizri; Deputies Zaki Mazbudi, Jamil Kibbi, Talal al-Mar'ibi, Nazim al-Qadiri, Hsan ar-Rifa'i, and Zahir al-Khatib; and Mufti Office Director General Dr Husayn al-Quwatli. Al-Haj Mahmud 'Allaya and Yahya Qazwini acted as secretaries.

At 1415, the expanded Islamic meeting ended. Dr Husayn al-Quwatli read the following statement on behalf of the conferees:

Islamic leaders comprising former prime ministers, ministers, and deputies met at the mufti's office under the chairmanship of Lebanese Mufti His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid. His eminence apprised the conferees of the efforts he made with the assistance of many Islamic figures to contain the internal crisis that recently beset West Beirut. After discussing the various aspects of the situation, the conferees expressed an appreciation of his eminence the mufti's efforts, and supported the steps he adopted in agreement with the quarters concerned. They also expressed their eagerness to implement what was agreed upon. They then decided to follow up the situation at a meeting to be held at the mufti's office at 1100 tomorrow, Tuesday.

Implementation of Agreement Begins

NC261908 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] At noon today, the Internal Security Forces took over the headquarters of the Independent Nasirite Movement—Al-Murabitun, while the 6th Brigade operated vehicular patrols as of 1330 along the entire length of Al-Mazra'ah and Wata al-Musaytibah avenues. The brigade also established a fixed post backed with vehicles outside the former PLO headquarters on Al-Mazra'ah Avenue.

Security sources have stated that the remaining decisions [reached at the Mufti's house on 25 March] will be implemented in due course. It is worth noting that the agreement stipulates that the responsibility for maintaining security in all areas of West Beirut be assigned to the Internal Security Forces, that these forces be supported, when necessary, by a force of the 6th Brigade, and that the political and social offices of the parties and organizations existing in the area be maintained by their proprietors but without an armed presence.

It has been observed that the Voice of Arab Lebanon radio has not yet resumed broadcasting despite the fact that the agreement stipulated that the radio be operated again by its original proprietors.

The implementation of the provisions of the agreement and the abidance of all the parties to it have created an atmosphere of satisfaction in the capital. The streets were crowded with people and cars, stores and public and private utilities opened, and the banks resumed business and were crowded with customers, following the disappearance of the armed positions and the withdrawal of the gunmen from the streets.

No incident worth mentioning was reported, except for some bursts of gunfire heard at approximately 1500.

Work teams of the Lebanese electricity and telephone authorities were seen repairing electric pylons and lines on Corniche al-Mazra'ah and At-Tariq Al-Jadidah preparatory to restoring electric power.

Store owners in the afflicted areas have begun repairing the damage caused in the recent clashes.

ISF Deploys Patrols

NC271240 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The Internal Security Forces, supported by the Lebanese Army's 6th Brigade, has deployed patrols in West Beirut. Armed manifestations and gunmen have disappeared from the streets in implementation of the agreement reached at the mufti's residence following the Islamic delegation's visit to Damascus.

Mufti, Al-Murabitun Delegation Meet

NC261758 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Lebanese Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid today received a delegation representing the Independent Nasirite Movement — Al-Murabitun, comprised of Fayd Hamadah and Dr Kamil Hajjar. The discussions during the meeting dealt with the implementation of the recent decisions to withdraw the gunmen from all streets and hand over security responsibilities in West Beirut to the Internal Security Forces, and to return to the Al-Murabitun their main headquarters, the Voice of Arab Lebanon Radio, and the Lebanese National Red Crescent.

RFL: Syria 'Dissatisfied' With Qulaylat

NC261738 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Reports from Damascus are not carrying anything about Ibrahim Qulaylat — his moves or meetings. Earlier, several reports indicated that he is being kept there under house arrest.

It is well-known that the Syrians are dissatisfied with several of Qulaylat's stands, including his support for Fatah and opposition to the Palestinian dissidents, as well as his relations with the Muslim Brotherhood.

Qulaylat Returns; Jihad Urged

NC271250 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Ibrahim Qulaylat, leader of the Independent Nasirite Movement — Al-Murabitun, has arrived in Beirut and held a number of meetings with leaders of the movement. They decided to continue the struggle to the end in light of contacts held with the Sunni leaders in the western sector of the capital, which focused on the importance of the existence or nonexistence of the Sunni community in the area. In a statement issued after the meetings, Al-Murabitun called for a declaration of jihad against those desiring to gain control of West Beirut by destroying the Sunni community politically and militarily.

Al-Murabitun called on all Sunni leaders to carry arms and defend the unity of the homeland and dignity of Muslims. Al-Murabitun concluded the statement by saying: Muslims, the masks have fallen. The Sunni community calls on you to lift the butchers' knife off its neck.

More Reaction to Clashes, Situation in W. Beirut

Sunni Group Issues Statement

NC221311 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1245 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The Sunni Popular Resistance (al-muqawamah ash-sha'biyah as-sunniah) has issued the following statement:-

When we were informing Sunni leaderships in West Beirut that the Amal Movement and Junblattists aim to dominate this area, these leaderships were accusing us of being agents. Today, after what occurred in some of Sunnite positions, the plot has been revealed. We are telling the Progressive Socialist Party that we will not stand idly by nor accept such acts.

Islamic Jihad Assails Junblatt

NC261059 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The Islamic Jihad organization today fiercely assailed Walid Junblatt. A spokesman for the organization, in a contact with a foreign news agency, said Junblatt is an overt agent for Israel in Beirut. The spokesman added that Junblatt must immediately leave the city [Beirut] and withdraw his militias. The spokesman held Junblatt fully responsible for humiliating the Muslims in Beirut. He urged all those gunmen who joined the Progressive Socialist Party to withdraw no later than the end of next month. He added that anyone who refuses to withdraw will suffer the penalty of execution.

More Reportage on Socialist Actions in W. Beirut

'Kidnap' Several Inhabitants

NC261008 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Early this morning several Junblattists kidnapped a number of inhabitants of Beirut's Tallat al-Khayyat area, including Kamil as-Sa'di, Ghazi Kalash, Faruq Sabra, Ibrahim 'Aytani, Kamal 'Aytani, and Husayn Ba'labakki.

In Beirut's Al-Barbir area several gunmen set up a roadblock and prevented members of the Internal Security Forces and Lebanese Army from passing in the direction of East Beirut.

Detentions Noted

NC261342 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Within the framework of the raids in West Beirut, the socialists at noon today led away from the Saqiyat al-Janzir area Muhammad at-Tarabulsi, Najib 'Uthman, Talib Talib, and Rif'at 'Abd al-Fattah. Moreover, a number of persons have been detained and their identities are not known.

At 1400 today, the socialists stopped a green Simca Talbot that was in the Al-Barbir area, and led it with its driver to an unknown destination.

Kidnap Victims Found Dead

NC270524 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The western area [of Beirut] witnessed noticeable tension during the past hours following the kidnappings carried out by the socialists and the discovery of the bodies of two kidnapped persons near the residence of Walid Junblatt.

Junblatt Confirms Attempts To Revive NSF

NC270736 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Walid Junblatt has confirmed in Damascus that contacts are continuing to revive [ta'wim] the National Salvation Front, thus denying any intention to establish a new front. Messrs Junblatt, 'Aim Qansu, In'am Ra'd, George Hawi, and Nabil al-Khatib met again in Damascus in the presence of Nabih Birri in a new attempt to agree on a plan for future moves regarding the situation in Lebanon.

Monte Carlo on New Front

JN261844 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Party leaders of the Lebanese nationalist movement resumed their meetings this morning in Damascus at the office of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP]. These meetings commenced yesterday to try to form a new Lebanese opposition front to replace the Lebanese National Salvation Front [NSF], which collapsed last week following President Sulayman Franjiyah's withdrawal. Those leaders who attended the meeting were Walid Junblatt, 'Asim Qansuh, George Hawi, In'am Ra'd, and Nabil al-Khatib. Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri, who did not participate in yesterday's meetings, joined the meeting today.

Those attending the meeting, according to a well-informed source, discussed forming a front called the Front of Political Reform to replace the NSF. However, some of the conferees — as one of them has told me — rejected this name, and insisted on reviving the NSF and urging President Franjiyah to reconsider his decision and rejoin the NSF. The meeting was concluded without reaching a decision, but the conferees agreed to resume the dialogue this evening in the PSP office in Damascus.

We would like to note that Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met last evening with Walid Junblatt and Nabih Birri for a long period of time. He also met last night with Jean 'Ubayd and Michael Samahah, President Amin al-Jumayyil's advisers.

P. al-Jumayyil on Situation During Party Meeting

NC261227 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil today at noon chaired the joint weekly meeting of the Phalange Party's Political Bureau and Central Council. During the meeting the conferees discussed current military and political developments, and also conducted an assessment of the post-Lausanne conference period.

Shaykh Pierre reviewed the outcome of the Lausanne conference and praised the unified stand of the Lebanese Front and general Christian stand that was demonstrated during the conference. He reaffirmed that the cease-fire should top all priorities. The Phalangist leader explained it is impermissible to discuss the question of the Constitution while under the yoke of occupation. He called for consolidating the unity of Christian ranks as that unity was demonstrated during the Lausanne conference.

Terms Shelling 'Barbaric'

NC271228 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Commenting on the shelling of the eastern areas [of Beirut] today, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil described it as beastly and barbaric. He said: This shelling is not part of a war anymore; it's become similar to a massacre. The leader of the Phalange Party urged the combatants to agree on forming a force that would achieve a complete cease-fire, as they have already agreed on the principles for a cease-fire. Otherwise, Shaykh Pierre said, it would be useless to try to achieve a cease-fire, because there are many sides that are tampering with the affairs of Lebanon, and there are those who do not want the Lebanese tragedy to end.

Shaykh Pierre added that the prevalence of calm in Lebanon is in Syria's interest, and hence it has to act to achieve this aim; otherwise, both Lebanon and Syria will be the losers. The Phalangist leader expressed his belief that most combatants want salvation, but the insistence of a tiny minority on keeping the situation tense makes the achievement of a cease-fire difficult.

Afram Notes 'Inclination' Toward Peace

NC271017 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] In an interview with the French news agency, the commander of the Lebanese Forces, Fadi Afram, has declared that there is an inclination on both sides in Lebanon toward calming matters. He said there is a political will on both sides to implement the cease-fire agreement announced 13 March.

Afram excluded the possibility of a confrontation between ground forces to secure positions from which the French troops will withdraw. He added that the forces present [in Beirut] must negotiate through the Security Committee regarding an arrangement that will avoid clashes. He said an agreement could become a first step on the road to normalization all along the contact line.

Ba'th Party on Lausanne Conference Statement

JN231030 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Mar 84

["Text" of 22 March statement by the Regional Command of the Ba'th Party in Lebanon]

[Text] While the upheaval in southern Lebanon and western Al-Biqa' has been escalating against the Zionist occupation, the second round of the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference was held in Lausanne to reach an agreement on a formula for a political solution to the crisis; a solution that has become a popular demand in the wake of the Lebanese people's tribulations and tragedies which have befallen them, causing the destruction of entire areas, particularly the southern suburb and some mountain and Beirut areas. The citizens believe the conference will result in bringing practical results that will place the country on the road to national salvation through the reaffirmation of the need to liberate the land from the Zionist occupation, reunite Lebanon on national and democratic bases, and establish the rule of democratic participation.

However, while the country is facing a fateful threat stemming from the continued Zionist occupation, and an increase in the risk of partitioning, the results of the Lausanne conference were not only a complete failure, but a new collapse into the quagmire of the Lebanese crisis. The conference completely disregarded the objective facts in the Lebanese arena.

Though the final statement stressed the need to achieve a cease-fire, a disengagement of forces, a withdrawal of the armed forces, and formation of a security committee whose task will be to implement the security plan, the developments that have taken place on the ground during the past few days, and the tone of political provocation adopted by the Lebanese Forces, indicate there is still one party which continues to insist on its trend and political course which is hostile to the reunification of Lebanon. By continuing to wager on the Zionist enemy as a factor which could define the map of the political events in the Lebanese arena, this party is proceeding on the road that will lead to undermining the national structure and all the bases of national unity.

It has become evident that while some members in the conference were insisting on the unionist formula, the command of the Lebanese Forces exacerbated the security situation, was preparing for an alliance with the Zionist enemy, and was paving the way for partitioning measures on the ground by establishing roadblocks at the entrances of the areas under their control. They began kidnapping, torturing, and liquidating citizens, and calling for organizing security in their areas and levying taxes.

If the Lausanne conference reached a dead end, the responsibility for this must be assumed by those who refused and continue to refuse the option of the unified Arab Lebanon which is hostile to Zionism. The responsibility must lie with those who rejected the democratic participation in government, and who are continuing their attempts to contain the regime and the authorities, and exploit the approval of the abrogation of the 17 May agreement to realize more gains at the expense of the rights and interests of the vast majority of Lebanese people.

In light of this, the party does not view the results of the conference as being true and positive signs toward a political solution of the Lebanese crisis. From this premise, the party pauses before the complete absence of basic and fateful causes in the life of the Lebanese people, particularly the occupation by the enemy of the south and western Al-Biqa', and certain parts of the mountain — not to mention that the conference did not refer to the heroic resistance which is confronting the occupation forces, despite the fact that our people in the occupied territories are living under difficult circumstances.

The party records for the conference its neglect of the cause of the displaced persons, and the missing and kidnapped. The conference did not make any reference to the disaster areas, particularly the southern suburb of Beirut, certain parts of the mountain and Iqlim al-Kharrub, and the Beirut quarters that have become a stark model of the size of the disaster that befell those areas and led to the destruction of the means of life in them.

Hence, the party, which in the past called for exploiting every positive initiative to secure the basis for a political solution to the Lebanese crisis, and following the Lausanne conference's trivial results, is of the view that the solution cannot be realized unless the following issues are realized:

1. The wagering on the Zionist enemy must end because this approach has proved futile and harmful. To continue this approach means placing Lebanon and the unity of its people and territory on the brink. The behavior of certain people, who hint at using the Zionist element to affect the course of events, will not change anything. They will be the first to lose. They should know that the enemy works in accordance with its interests. The enemy's original plan was to divide Lebanon.

2. The liberation of the land must be regarded as the central issue on which all the sincere nationalist efforts should center. The means of embarking on this path come through supporting the uprising in southern Lebanon and West Beirut, extending to it all means of assistance, and launching a broad campaign of solidarity with it on the Lebanese, Arab, and international levels because it is the only means of liberating the land and restoring full sovereignty.

3. Negotiations with the Zionist enemy must be rejected in all their forms. The resistance must be considered the best means of removing the occupation and all its effects. The implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 58/56 [as heard] concerning the unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist forces must be emphasized.

4. The cancellation of political sectarianism and job setarianism, and the protection of the public freedom and the citizens basic rights.

5. The issuance of a new electoral law and nationality law to put an end to the sufferings of thousands of citizens deprived of the minimum level of ctizenship due to the arbitrary measures regarding the implementation of the present nationalist law.

6. The achievement of a comprehensive economic and social development policy that has a national dimension, and the provision of the widest health security to poor families with limited incomes.

7. The reconstruction of the destroyed areas, reimbursement of the victims, and implementation of the principle of granting a suitable house for every citizen.

8. The achievement of democracy, free education, and the development of curricula to create a cohesive national generation immune to all attempts of distortion against national and pan-Arab education.

9. The adoption of a national defense policy, and establishment of a national army trained to be Israel's enemy and to play its natural role in the battles of Arab struggle.

10. The reassessement of the socialist decrees to cancel what contradicts the constitutional provisions, public freedoms, democracy, and freedom of political and trade union action.

11. The reconfirmation first and foremost of Lebanon's unity, Arabism, and democracy as a genuine basis against all attempts of partition and fragmentation under any proposed formula.

While stressing the aforementioned principles, the party believes the means to achieve this necessitates the realization of an immediate and comprehensive cease-fire; removal of the armed manifestations; opening of the roads between the areas and inside every area; release of the kidnapped; and a investigation of the

destiny of the missing. As a necessary measure, a national unity government is necessary to run Lebanon's political affairs, because one cannot depend on the promise that a constitutional body will be established to formulate a new constitution as the past promises have gone with the wind. Therefore, the restoration of dialogue in accordance with the aforementioned principles is the means to achieve all the elements of confrmity. [Words indistinct] despite all obstacles and difficulties to the reestablishment of the one, unified, democratic, and Arab Lebanon, given that they are the two options that embody the national character, and that the opposite of this will be the resumption of violence that will bring more killing and destruction. Our masses have had enough of torture and expulsion.

[Signed] The Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Lebanon

Ihdin on 'Resistance' Operations in South

NC260813 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Yesterday afternoon in the south, members of the Lebanese national resistance implemented a new operation against the Israeli occupation forces when they detonated an explosive charge as an occupation forces' patrol was passing in As-Sarafand on the main Sidon-Tyre Highway. Soon thereafter, the occupation forces surrounded the area and initiated a large-scale search operation.

There were clashes last night in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp between the Palestinian inhabitants and so-called national guards that Israel has formed. The Israeli occupation forces intervened to stop the clashes and surrounded the camp.

The southerners simultaneously continued their defiance of the enemy Israeli forces. In Ma'rakah Township, Tyre District, the inhabitants attacked two trucks belonging to the enemy in the center of the township. They withdrew by way of a narrow road to the outskirts of the township.

Following this action, two helicopters overflew the area, and one landed in a football field. At the same time, two personnel carriers entered the township and opened fire, wounding a number of citizens. The inhabitants then blocked roads and burned tires. After some time, the personnel carriers withdrew, and the inhabitants remained in a state of alert and kept the roads closed.

Kuwaiti Paper: Libya To Rebuild Ruined Churches

GF241340 Kuwait AL-HADAF in Arabic 24 Mar 84 p 1

["Exclusive" report from Lausanne]

[Text] *AL-HADAF* has learned that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has promised to finance a project to reconstruct all churches and monasteries damaged during the recent war in Lebanon.

Al-Qadhdhafi has asked the Christian leaders to send him a list of those churches and monasteries damaged so that funds can be alloted to reconstruct them. He has also promised to supply Lebanon with all the arms and hardware it needs to fight Israel.

Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has extended an invitation to Camille Sham'un and other members of the National Liberal Party's Political Bureau to visit Libya to bolster relations between the Libyan leadership and Christian leaders.

Television Carries Al-Asad's TIME Interview

JN262040 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1834 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has made a statement to the group from the U.S. magazine *TIME*, consisting of: Henry Grunwald, editor-in-chief; Ray Cave, the managing editor; Richard Duncan, the assistant managing editor; Ronald Flamini, director of the Middle East office; William Stewart, the magazine's correspondent in the Middle East; and Peter Jordan, the cameraman.

At the beginning of the meeting, Grunwald presented the members of the magazine's mission to the president, and said that he apologized for bringing such a large number of assistants, but that he was compelled to bring them because the president is the most prominent personality in the Middle East. The following are the mission's questions and the president's answers to them.

TIME: Mr President, the United States has failed in Lebanon. Despite the fact that it is still strong, Israel has been shaken by the effect of its experience in Lebanon. Syria is now facing the difficult duty of assuming the responsibility in Lebanon. Could there not be a beginning for resolving all the existing problems? In this regard, I mean the relations between Syria and Israel, the two main countries in the region. Couldthere not be a practical understanding between them that will lead to resolving many problems?

Al-Asad: We always seek to realize peace in the region. We began several years ago, and since 1973, we have agreed on resolution No 338 and arrangements that the United Nations approved at that time, including the convening of an international conference for peace. But we have found that all this conflicts with Israel's aspirations. In light of our experience, Israel is not seeking the establishment of a real peace that is based on justice and that achieves the aspirations of the displaced and oppressed. Israel has big ambitions involving the territories of others. Experience confirms this, in addition to the fact that Israel wants to continue as a big power in the midst of the region, and wants to dominate the entire region. Everyone knows that the United States' large and continuous aid to Israel enhances this spirit and these ambitions. Were it not for this aid, Israel would never have been able to launch agressions from time to time and expand in the Arab land, and the experiences of the long years would have pushed the Israelis themselves to put an end to their illegitimate aspirations.

Although we are aware of the real Israeli ambitions, we wish and struggle for the establishment of a real peace that can restore to us our rights and put an end to the Israeli expansionist spirit. Within this framework, we have for some time supported the calls and proposals for the convocation of an international conference under the aegis of the United Nations. But, according to the media, Israel's position toward these proposals was negative. We regret to say that U.S. efforts, which were exerted from time to time under the slogan of seeking peace, did not often carry the proposals of the United States as a superpower that has a special responsibility in this world, but rather carried Israeli proposals. This is what we used to tell the U.S. officials who conveyed such proposals to us.

TIME: Let us assume that such a conference was held in accordance with the formula you present, and that its outcome might be predicted. Will you give us your view of the Middle East, including Israel's role after that international conference.

Al-Asad: It is difficult to draw up a detailed picture. If we draw such a picture, nothing will be left for discussion at the peace conference. But we can imagine the Middle East as a region in which peace prevails and all the parties restore their rights in light of the UN resolutions so that nobody feels he was wronged. This is what we imagine.

TIME: Is it possible that recognizing Israel will be a subject of discussion at such a conference?

Al-Asad: When we say a peace conference that is held under UN resolutions, every party can propose everything that he believes, stemming from the UN resolutions, and you know that the Israelis always talk about the unacceptability of preconditions. Such a question forms a precondition.

TIME: Is there a role for the two superpowers in the region? If the answer is positive, what type of role would you like the United States to play, and what role can the USSR play?

Al-Asad: Most certainly, the United States has a role that it must play in the region, and the USSR also has a role that it must play. No rational person can ignore the role of these two superpowers. What we hope is that the United States will play a just, neutral and responsible role, emanating from its responsibilities as a superpower, particularly since we always witness a full and continuous U.S. bias toward Israel. As we see it ourselves, this bias conflicts with the role of the United States as a superpower and the interests of U.S. citizens. It also does not serve the peace issue.

Certainly, there is no need to mention scores or hundreds of examples which confirm the United States' bias toward Israel. It is enough to say that the United States gives Israel approximately $3 billion annually. This means that every Israeli receives $1,000 annually from the earnings of U.S. citizens. We should know that the national per capita income in 90 percent of the Third World countries is much less than this figure. This is the apparent figure of U.S. aid to Israel. We must also take into consideration that a big portion of this aid is received by Israel in the form of the most modern weapons that are directed against our citizens in order to kill them and occupy our land. This example is sufficient.

TIME: You and other Arab statesmen have said that the United States is biased toward Israel without affecting U.S. aid to it. U.S. aid to Israel is greater now than in 1975. Have you asked yourselves why such aid increased and why you did not influence the U.S. public opinion?

Al-Asad: We have asked ourselves this question many times. One of the most important reasons for this is that we do not have voters in the U.S. presidential elections in the United States. However, this rule was not absolute in U.S. history. There have been U.S. Presidents who dealt with some of the Middle East problems in light of U.S. interests, and not those of Israel, which are imposed by the Zionist lobby in the United States. Everyone

remembers President Eisenhower's stand in this regard. I said that one of the most important reasons for this U.S. bias is the Jewish vote in the United States, which U.S. presidential candidates endeavor to gain. But this does not mean that I justify the stand of any U.S. Administration.

As is well-known in all countries, the candidates usually present themselves in light of their countries' interests as a whole -- not the interests of a certain group, especially when this group acts for the interests of another country outside its homeland and at the expense of its homeland's interests. Everybody knows that what is called the Zionist lobby in the United States acts primarily for Israel's interests, not for those of the United States. Therefore, any U.S. president who takes the aspirations of such groups into consideration is actually not considering U.S. interests first. This answers your question and explains the U.S. aid to Israel, which is increasing year after year and by one U.S. Administration after another.

TIME: It is difficult for a country to assess where the interest of another country lies. Some who are not considered among the lobby believe that their country's interests are common with those of Israel, and that if you had recognized Israel as an existing fact, you would have better influenced U.S. public opinion.

Al-Asad: Why are we required to offer everthing? Why is it not required to stop the billions of dollars that go to Israel? Why is it not required to stop the sale of U.S. arms to Israel? Why is it not required to tell the American Jew that he has to be only an American Jew — as you say to the American Muslim and the American Christian? As for us, we want the American Jew to be Amercian, the American Christian to be American, and the American Muslim to be American. Only in this way can the United States view things objectively and work for a real peace. At present, they in the United States are talking to us about peace, whereas the thing that most obstructs peace in the region is U.S. policy. This policy, which the United States is implementing, is an Israeli policy.

Peace is not sheer words or sheer wishes; peace is a state that should prevail and that has tangible, material pillars. If the United States really wanted to establish peace, it would not extend this huge aid to Israel every year. Such huge aid upsets balance within the region. Do they in the United States believe that peace can be achieved when Israel becomes a big power in the region? If they believe so, this belief then lacks logic and objectivity.

Let us see what happened following Egypt's departure from the Arab fold after the Camp David agreement: Egypt constitutes at least half of the Arab force facing Israel. The United States, as it says, used to provide Israel with weapons, funds and various other aid in order to make it equal to all the Arab forces facing Israel. After the Camp David accords, Egypt walked out of the Arab ranks. The U.S. aid to Israel was supposed to be cut by half, and the Israeli military forces were supposed to be cut by half. Let us briefly say that the U.S. aid to Israel should have been decreased. However, what happened was exactly the opposite. We, the Arabs, lost at least half of our force. Nevertheless, U.S. aid did not stop at the previous limit. On the contrary, U.S. aid to Israel has increased. Therefore, how can we say that the United States is working for peace?

I received a U.S. Congressional delegation after the Lebanese war. We discussed aid. I told the delegation members: You are offering us words about peace, and after a few days you will be discussing military and economic aid to Israel estimated at billions of dollars. This is what was announced by the newspapers. Do you not see that you are not balanced in your words? You are offering us beautiful words about peace, while you are offering others tanks, guns, planes and dollars in preparation for war. Where is logic in this?

TIME: What, in your opinion, is the United States' motive for this behavior?

Al-Asad: The Zionist sway over the United States, which imposes on the United States via the U.S. Administration a certain policy in this region, is unrelated to the interests of the U.S. citizens. It is only connected with Israeli interests, particularly the Israeli expansionist interests. If we probe the inner feelings of the U.S. citizens, we will discover that this policy cannot express the stand of the U.S. citizen, because this citizen has no material or principled interest in this policy. On the contrary, this conflicts completely with this citizen's interests and with his principles as a human being first, and as a citizen of a superpower that has special responsibilities second. This means that U.S. candidates who care for the Zionist voters care for these voters' interests more than they care for the interests of Americans in general.

TIME: You have overestimated that lobby, because a small sector cannot influence the state unless the American people sympathize with Israel.

Al-Asad: I differ completely with you. It is not a question of sympathy, and I can support my argument with statements by U.S. officials. It is a question of an organized Jewish force in the Zionist movement, a force that imposes its ideas through the media and financial institutions as well as through a number of government departments. It is not a question of emotion, but it is a question of financial influence. I wonder how the U.S. citizens can sympathize with a state that shells Beirut with thousands of bombs and hundreds of U.S. planes without any discrimination between a child and a fighter, and how they cannot sympathize with millions of displaced people in tents. If I accept the question of sympathy, I will change my opinion about the American citizens, and I do not want to change that opinion.

TIME: U.S. policy has not succeeded in Lebanon, Israel suffers from economic weakness, and Syria has a key role in Lebanon. What is the next Syrian step to help Lebanon? The ball is now in your court, as they say. Can a simultaneous withdrawal of Israeli and Syrian forces from Lebanon be achieved? Will Syria withdraw from Lebanon if a Lebanese national accord government requests that?

Al-Asad: It seems that the question consists of two parts. The first and principal part deals with resolving the Lebanese problem. This is what we are seeking to realize, and we made proposals to our Lebanese brothers a long time ago. Despite the

lapse of many years, the escalating and continuous fighting during this period, and the Israeli invasion, experience has shown that accord among the Lebanese is the only way. This is what we stressed in 1976, and we still stress and work for it. I believe that everyone who follows the situation in Lebanon and deals with developments objectively knows that Syria is seeking to realize that accord. Our recent position in this regard is obvious. All the Lebaense parties and all the observers believe in that.

It is true that the Lausanne conference did not succeed as we and the Lebaense parties wished, but we achieved maximum cooperation. We fully cooperated with the Lebanese president. The Syrian delegate continued to exert his bilateral and collective efforts, and we will continue to exert our efforts in this direction, especially since the Lebanese parties believe, as we were told, that there is no other option.

Regarding our position toward a government of national unity stemming from the accord, I can say that we will support it completely. We went to Lebanon at the request of a legitimate government representing the Lebanese, and Lebanon was not under Israeli occupation. When a government of national unity is set up, we will respond to its request, because such a government will represent the Lebanese people and will be able to express its opinion freely. Such a government that represents Lebanon's people will stand by Syria to evacuate Israel from Lebanon without any conditions or obligations.

Nobody and no nationalist in Lebanon will agree to link the relationship between the Lebanese and Syrians with the relationship between the Lebanese and Israelis. We in Syria will not accept such a link. The Syrians and the Lebanese are one people and we have one past; namely, one history and one future. At the same time, we are two independent countries, but this will not prevent us from being one people linked by ties of kinship and history. How far the Israelis are from this! There are many families whose members live both in Syria and Lebanon. We have one language and we have one history. But what is there between Israel and Lebanon? Israel is an an invader in Lebanon and we defend Lebanon against Israel. There is no logic in trying to link the Israeli presence and the Syrian presence or the Syrian withdrawal and the Israeli withdrawal. We consider the problems between Syria and Lebanon as problems between the members of one family, but the problems between Lebanon and Israel or between Syria and Israel as problems between grieved peoples and a force of invasion and occupation. Therefore, our position is clear, and we will not accept any link between the Syrian presence in and withdrawal from Lebanon on the one hand, and the Israeli presence in and withdrawal from Lebanon on the other.

We and the Israelis did not agree to enter Lebanon, and we did not enter it at the same time. We entered it at the request and insistence of legitimacy in Lebanon several years ago, but Israel entered it as an invader and launched aggressions against the Lebanese, the Palestinians and the Syrians. Therefore, Israel should leave in accordance with the UN resolutions and without any conditions.

TIME: You were quoted as saying that the Syrian military presence in Lebanon will be ended 1 month after the Israeli withdrawal. Is this correct?

Al-Asad: I do not remember that I defined days or months in this respect. When a national unity government stems from a national accord, we will respond to its request without hesitation. This may take place within a month, days or months. It all depends on the Lebanese Government's desire.

TIME: The differences in Lebanon are old and bitter ones. They existed before the establishment of Israel. Do you not believe that during the achievment of an accord in Lebanon you may bite off a bigger morsel than you can chew?

Al-Asad: No. Lebanon is not Syria's morsel; and Syria its not Lebanon's morsel. We are brothers, and we must help each other. In light of this understanding, we deal with Lebanon. Our desire and interest is to see Lebanon united, stable and strong. Lebanon may be a big morsel to the United States, although it is a superpower. The United States and Lebanon are not one people. Our country and Lebanon are one people. The problem is not merely materialistic.

The Arabs' ability to solve their problems is greater than any other country, even if it is a superpower. Therefore, this difference must be taken into consideration. If the United States had historical ties with Lebanon, as is the case between Syria and Lebanon, the United States' ability to solve this problem would be greater than its current ability. This situation applies to any other foreign country, such as Britain and France. I mean that the common history and mutual effects are the ones that help the Arab countries and enable them to solve their problems. Any other Arab country will affect and be affected by other Arab countries more than by any other country in the world.

TIME: Do you consider the escalation of the Islamic fundamentalism a threat to your Ba'thist secular government?

Al-Asad: Islam is a religion which calls for love, kindness and peoples' progress and justice. All those who call for Islam or understand the reality of Islam will converge with us, and will find that we will support them. We are only against the groups which raise the slogan of Islam and try to explain it in a way which is radically contrary to its reality, and which portrays Islam as an obstacle to the progress of life, to justice, and to the progress of human life.

This is our understanding of this matter. Therefore, we do not find any problem. We support and converge with the real Muslims; we stand against those who try to tarnish Islam.

TIME: Are there forces in Iran which try to tarnish real Islam?

Al-Asad: I am not concerned about discussing Iranian internal affairs. However, the Iranian revolution in general is a real Islamic revolution.

TIME: The United States and some other countries are worried about terrorism supported by some countries, such as the attack against the U.S. Marine headquarters in Beirut. It has

been said that this attack would not have taken place had it not been for a kind of negligence [tajahul] or a kind of agreement on Syria's part. Can you comment on this?

Al-Asad: Do terrorist acts not occur in the United States? As long as they occur — a matter on which you agree — the United States in accordance with this logic is the one which arranges these acts. The countries whose missions are exposed to terrorism will be right when they accuse the United States of being responsible for these actions. Do you not believe that in past years terrorist acts took place in Syria? Do those in the United States want to say that the Syrian Government was behind these acts? How can they say that we are responsible for an act that takes place in Beirut, while we are not there, and at the same time the United States will not be responsible for terrorist acts that take place in the United States? Some U.S. officials repeated such accusations. I doubt if they are really convinced of what they say.

I told one of them that if we could not prevent such acts from taking place in the areas under our control, why could the Lebanese Army not prevent those who perpetrated these acts when they crossed its areas. Also, why could other Lebanese forces not prevent them when they entered their areas. Furthermore, why could the United States not prevent them? All these people could not prevent them. Therefore, why are only we responsible, rather than everybody else? In fact, there is no logic in such statements.

TIME: What are the prospects for the PLO now, with the presence of estrangement between you and 'Arafat and increasing rapprochement between 'Arafat and King Husayn?

Al-Asad: The PLO has been and will remain, in our consideration, the Palestinian people's legitimate representative. This stand is not linked to our stand toward a certain person or several persons. As we view it, the PLO is neither one person nor a group of persons. It includes thousands of strugglers and hundreds of leaders. They manage their own affairs. Therefore, our relationship with the PLO will always remain good. You can meet with a large number of the PLO leaders here in Syria and you will find that the relationship between Syria and the PLO is good.

TIME: The PLO is divided and it seems that Syria is taking the side of those who oppose and stand against 'Arafat's policy and rapprochement with King Husayn. Consequently, it can be said that Syria is playing a role in developing the PLO's policy. Is this true?

Al-Asad: Naturally, there must be interaction between us and the PLO. We influence them and they influence us. This interaction not taking place only at present, but has also taken place in the past. I believe that the Palestinian strugglers' experience will ensure that no real division will take place in the Palestinian arena.

TIME: Has King Husayn learned from you when he made his recent remarks on the United States?

Al-Asad: I hope that he has done so. We learn from life and from our experince. The question concerning us all is very serious. Israel wants our land. It wants the land of Jordan and the lands of others. It wants the land of Saudi Arabia. Thus, what we have before us requires us to learn. This will ensure that King Husayn and others must learn also.

Vice Presidents Sworn in Before Al-Asad

JN262154 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2130 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, 26 Mar (SANA) — At 2230 today, Vice Presidents 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Rif'at al-Asad and Zuhayr Mashariqah took the constitutional oath before President Hafiz al-Asad after being named vice presidents in presidential decrees. Following the swearing-in ceremony, the president received the three vice presidents and spoke to them about their future duties.

AL-BA'TH Raps Numayri On Anti-Libya Campaign

PM261656 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 19 Mar 84 p 3

[Samih Abu Takk Article: "Numayri's Pretexts Will Not Conceal the Signs of Revolution"]

[Text] Contrary to the Sudanese regime's claims, the raid on Omdurman was not carried out by foreign hands. Most Arab and American sources have confirmed this. It was a Sudanese affair. The raid was carried out by Sudanese Air Force pilots in order to express the Sudanese people's deep resentment of Numayri's regime, if not an attempt to overthrow that regime.

There are many reasons for Numayri's attempt to implicate Libya in this matter. First of all, this attempt is part and parcel of Numayri's plan to justify the move to bring in Egyptian forces to defend him, because he is faced with an unlimited number of crises both in the Sudanese Armed Forces and at the level of the Sudanese masses, whose rejection of the Numayri regime manifested itself in the numerous demonstrations staged against that regime.

Furthermore, by accusing Libya he seeks to conceal the coordination between his regime, the Egyptian regime, and the United States against Libya as a state resisting U.S. designs in Africa. He also sees this coordination, which the Egyptian regime and the United States were quick to reveal, as an opportunity to get rid of his political rivals.

Many are Numayri's pretexts in connection with this incident. As soon as it occurred, the United States and the Egyptian regime announced an airlift of arms for the Sudanese regime, and the Egyptian regime expressed a readiness to send Egyptian forces to Sudan in implementation of the so-called joint defense pact. Blaming Libya for the Omdurman incident is just an excuse to justify aggression against the Jamahiriyah, not by the Sudanese regime but by the United States, which is obviously hostile to Libya. Since the Sudanese regime is one of Washington's tools in Africa, Washington sees this incident as a good pretext for mounting an aggression against Libya in cooperation with the Egyptian regime.

The Sudanese people, who are well aware of Numayri's links, know perfectly well that these claims against Libya are false and

unfounded. It is impossible for a Libyan aircraft to cover all that distance to reach Omdurman and bomb the radio station.

All these attempts cannot negate Numayri's links with imperialist designs or conceal the Sudanese people's hatred for Numayri. Numayri cannot divert the Sudanese people's attention away from their struggle against him by claiming that Sudan is the target of foreign aggression. The Sudanese people know only too well that the only threat to Sudan is Numayri himself, as well as his links with Washington and the Egyptian regime. They also know full well that Libya is an Arab country which could never commit aggression against Sudan, and that, on the contrary, Libya supports the Sudanese people against any possible foreign aggression.

'Arafat Attempt To Dominate PNC Scored

JN242017 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Palestine Broadcast: From "On the Events" program]

[Text] One of the pressing questions in our Palestinian arena is the PLO's current predicament. To be more precise, the question is how to get out of the present crisis that has paralyzed the PLO and its departments and institutions, and whether it is possible to overcome this crisis through the legitimate institutions, especially the PNC. What makes this question very important are the attempts by Yasir 'Arafat and his partners, who support a capitulatory settlement, to bypass the real PNC and from a non-national council which will agree to the cancellation of the Palestinian National Charter.

One of these attempts was the task which Yasir 'Arafat revealed to the Jordanian-'Arafat joint committees when he entrusted them to hold contacts inside the occupied territory to secure Israel's approval to allow the so-called representatives of the occupied territory to attend the next PNC session. We say the "so-called representatives" because the legitimate procedures concerning the PNC's formation have never assigned special lists for the representatives of the occupied territory.

In other words, these people whom 'Arafat is inviting will not be real members of the PNC. He is granting them membership so that they will support his line and joint plans with the Jordanian regime. The people will be among the supporters of the Jordanian regime and Village League members who cooperate with the enemy.

At the same time, 'Arafat is faking general conferences of the Palestinian popular organizations and choosing general secretariats that support his line, so that these organizations will be represented at the next PNC session by persons loyal to his policy. 'Arafat is making the necessary arrangments so the next PNC will become a pro-'Arafat council, which he will then claim to be the real PNC.

'Arafat's plan to blow up the PLO from within and overcome the PNC's opposition to his line is now obvious and exposed, just as his deviation has become. We must strive to confront this plan, isolate the representatives of this capitulatory line, prevent any tampering with the fate of the PLO and adhere to the true legitimate institutions and not the false ones that 'Arafat is trying to impose upon us.

'Arafat's Leadership of Fatah Criticized

JN232215 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Palestine Broadcast: "Historical Events"]

[Text] Brothers on the path of revolution and liberation: Under the headline "Legitimacy and Revolutionary Legitimacy," the newsletter *SAWT AT-TALI'AH*, published by the Regional Cultural and Party Preparation Bureau of the Palestinian Ba'th Party organization, has published an article by colleague 'Abd ar-Rahman Ghunaym. The following is a part of this article:

When the upheaval occurred in the Fatah movement, 'Arafat's supporters in the Fatah Central Committee tried to ostracize the upheaval, claiming it was a mutiny against legitimacy. The same thing happened to 'Arafat's deviation. The resistance groups adopted a stand challenging 'Arafat's legitimacy as chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

The Fatah Central Committee had avoided a motion by the follow-up committee formed by the PLO Central Council, claiming that it challenged its legitimacy. The committee said that it had the right to arrange the general congress of the Fatah movement, and not the proposed leadership committee which was to be formed with the approval of both sides of the movement.

These events raised a debate in the Palestinian arena concerning legitimacy and revolutionary legitimacy. Legitimacy here concerns the authority or the leadership which controls PLO affairs. When does an authority become legitimate and when does itlose this legitimacy? An authority, any authority, derives its legitimacy from several sources. The first is the rank and file which elected that authority, provided the election takes place in a true democratic manner. We are saying rank and file to specify the framework within which such a process takes place. The framework can be all the people in the case of the political leadership of a country, the members of an organization in the case of any organization, and the members of a group of organizations in a front consisting of several organizations, such as the PLO.

Although the rank and file is the strongest source of legitimacy for any authority — from the moral point of view at least — we must note two points concerning the PLO: First, this formula has never been applied; second, Yasir 'Arafat's leadership in the Fatah movement has always been totally opposed to this formula throughout the history of the movement.

In order to explain these two points in some detail, we say: What is the organizational framework of the PLO? Is it a political entity for all the Palestinian people, as was the intention when it was formed, and as is obvious from the wide Arab and international recognition of this organization as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people? Is it a front which embraces active Palestinian political and fedayeen forces?

Or is it the umbrella organization [Munazzamat al-Munazzamah] as some people believe, headed by 'Arafat before he became leader of the PLO?

Although logic dictates that the first choice is the most likely one, the reality, through daily practive, says that Yasir 'Arafat's leadership has prevented the development of the organ of democratic representation as presumed by the logic which says that the PLO is an entity representing all the people. Although the PLO's basic law provides for electing the PNC whenever possible, this did not take place. In fact, 'Arafat's leadership fought this trend right from the beginning.

If we go back to the memorandum which the General Command of the Al-'Asifah forces [Fatah's military wing] addressed to the second session of the PNC held in Cairo on 28 May 1965, we will find that it addressed the speaker and members of the council as follows: Brothers, if you are adopting the principle of democracy as one of the manifestations of action in the PLO, you are mistaken. Democracy based on nomination and election is a false democracy as far as liberation movements are concerned. This is because democracy will bring in opportunist elements and hopeless traditional leadership.

A leadership which has such a view of democracy is the Fatah movement it is leading, despite all its organizational forms — regional conferences, the Revolutionary Council and the General Congress. As this leadership says: A democracy based on nomination and election is a false democracy as far as liberation revolutions are concerned. The principle of securing legitimacy through the rank and file, the people, the masses, and through nomination and election has been rejected by 'Arafat's leadership, not because it is impossible or difficult to carry out due to the Palestinian people's conditions, but because it rejects this principle, believing that it does not suit a revolutionary movement or a revolutionary orgnization. When 'Arafat's leadership rejects the people's right to elect their representatives in the first place, we have to investigate the basis of the legitimacy which this leadership claims, and which brought it to power in the PLO Executive Committee.

In 1965, when the PLO leadership was in the hands of the Ahmad ash-Shuqayri, 'Arafat's memorandum, to which we referred earlier, said: If we are sincere about making the PLO represent the national unity of our returning people, then we must be inspired by this sincerity to avoid all actions or statements which harm national unity, and to strongly push the wheel of history so it can quickly take us to our desired goal, leaving behind those who advocate defeatist stands.

We can repeat the same words verbatim today when facing Yasir 'Arafat and his leadership.

U.S. Delegation From Oregon Arrives 26 Mar

JN270723 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Victor 'Attiyah, governor of the State of Oregon, arrived in Damascus today heading a delegation comprised of a number of senior officials from the state. The delegation arrived for a 5-day official visit to Syria at the invitation of the minister of local administration.

Defense Minister on Elections, Lebanon, Egypt

TA231759 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Interview with Defense Minister Prof Moshe Arens by David Margalit on the "Weekly Column" program — recorded; date and place not given]

[Text] [Margalit] Mr Defense Minister, how will early elections affect Israel's policy in Lebanon?

[Arens] I do not think it will affect it in any way. Some people say that in anticipation of elections, governments do certain things for the short-term benefits, presumably at the expense of the longer-term view. I would not like to believe that the incumbent government will do that, say in the economic field which is where most of these fears have been directed. I can promise you that nothing in this direction, namely for short-term objectives at the expense of long-term goals, will be employed in the political-military sphere. We will not jeopardize the life of even one Israeli for election considerations.

[Margalit] So you mean that no steps will be taken to accelerate the withdrawal from Lebanon before the elections?

[Arens] As long as things depend on me — and in this case I think they will depend on me — nothing will be done out of consideration for the elections or the election process. We will try to work in a way that will be beneficial to Israeli interests, as though elections were not being held.

[Margalit] But is withdrawal not also ultimately in Israel's interests?

[Arens] We will do what we regard as correct and for the good of our interests, regardless of the elections.

[Margalit] Such as a partial withdrawal?

[Arens] We check constantly. After all, what we want to achieve is obvious: We want quiet and peace in the Galilee. We have had this for more than 21 months, and we have gotten used to it. Moreover, part of the Israeli public has already obliterated any memory of what happened before. We do not want what we experienced daily before to recur. We would like to persist in achieving this goal with minimal costs, minimal endeavors, and certainly minimal harm to IDF soldiers, with the utmost care to cut the economic resources we must invest here. Therefore we occasionally, I would even say every week, check and review what has happened, what has changed, and try to learn whether in light of what has changed and what we have learned it is possible to operate differently. Consequently there is no question that this month, next month, as well as in 2 or 3 months we will examine the situation and look into redeployment.

The current deployment appears to us to be the best in light of what we know today. We are investing substantial effort in trying to conduct a dialogue with the local population and local personages, and have recently been investing a great deal of effort in the army of southern Lebanon, or what was previously known as Haddad's forces, which is growing and increasing in power. It is currently assuming responsibility for the routine security missions in part of the region we control. We hope to progress to the point where that force will be able to relieve a large bulk of the IDF's burden of responsibility for what happens in southern Lebanon.

[Margalit] If that is the case, do you believe that the IDF will still be stationed along its present deployment lines by election day?

[Arens] I would not like to predict this. Right now we occupy the present lines, and the speculation that was voiced over the Israeli media reporting that we are about to leave the area, or that this will be done next week, or that the Cabinet is expected to decide to leave this town or that village in a few days, have caused us great damage. Not only did they fail to reflect the truth, but they also caused us great damage, and actually really presented obstacles to the dialogue we have been engaged in with the southern Lebanese inhabitants, many of whom told us: Why should we talk with you at all; we read in your own papers that you will leave the area next week. I would not like to deal with this speculation. Besides, there is no room for such speculation, since at this stage this is our deployment.

[Margalit] So there are no plans for another deployment at the present moment?

[Arens] No.

[Margalit] When you say that the cost is constantly being reviewed — particularly if one counts the number of casualties — naturally any withdrawal would of necessity lead to greater chances of limiting the number of casualties. Is that not so?

[Arens] This is not so evident. In fact, I would say that when we examine possibilities for alternative deployments versus the current line, it is not clear that with any other deployment — even if that involves our deploying over smaller territory — the number of incidents would actually decrease.

[Margalit] Why is that? After all, we will have less contact with the population, and a smaller population at that?

[Arens] Perhaps we should begin with the redeployment, or if you will the withdrawal, we have already carried out from the Ash-Shuf range. I would say that that pullback serves as a model, practically an ideal, in the sense that we left an area and were able to decrease the number of our troops in Lebanon without leaving behind hostile elements, while engaging in a dialogue and having an understanding with the local population — in this case the Druze — so that today we are deployed along what is known as the Al-Awwali line and have no foe opposite our lines. The forces deployed north of our lines, namely the Druze militias, in fact prevent the terrorists from coming into that area. Therefore we are on the Al-Awwali line, and are presented with no problem opposite us. It is not a confrontation line. This is the line that marks the border of the area where we are stationed, but it is not a confrontation line. If today, unilaterally and without prior coordination or security arrangements with the local elements, we leave part of the area in which we are deployed, such as near Sidon, we would leave part of the Shi'ite population outside the area under our control, and part of the Shi'ite population inside

our area. One could assume that fighting between the various militias would begin in the area we left, since there are many Shi'ites there as well as many Christians, Sunnis and even Palestinians. It can be safely assumed that such fighting would cause the Palestinian terrorists to return to the area, perhaps at first as allies of one of the parties. We can thus say with near certainty that we would find ourselves all of a sudden stationed along a line that had become a confrontation line, with terrorists and other hostile elements opposite us. This would have to affect what happened on our side of the line as well. Thus I am telling you that it is not indisputable that even if such a withdrawal minimized the area we occupied and somewhat decreased the population with which we had contact, we would be less exhausted or that the degree of hostility and the number of attacks would drop.

[Margalit] What facts in the area, or situation, will lead us to decide that we should not sit there any longer?

[Arens] The moment we reach the stage in which an element there has the military capability — whether this is the army of the south or any other local force that is organizing — and demonstrates the readiness and intention to make sure that terrorists do not operate from the area under their control against Israel, and the moment we assess that this force has the ability to make these intentions good, at that very moment we will get out. We will then leave the entire area, if we see that our assessment holds true for the entire region north of the international border, or pull out of part of the area we occupy today.

[Margalit] So you mean that securing our northern border remains the only reason for our continued stay there?

[Arens] Definitely, because as I have said on numerous occasions, I think it is the primary obligation of every government to guarantee the well-being and safety of its citizens. A government that cannot do this — take Lebanon for example — its very existence is in doubt.

[Margalit] But after all, the stay in Lebanon is one of the main domestic problems in terms of the internal dispute. If we leave Lebanon one of these bitter confrontations could be blunted. Is this not a price that is worth paying? Should we leave even if the security arrangements are incomplete, just to quiet the internal scene?

[Arens] Look, we are in a campaign, and not for the first time in Israel's history. This campaign demands a price and tends to wear us down. This is the campaign over the Galilee, and it is currently taking place in southern Lebanon. Certainly one can raise the alternative that we conduct the campaign for peace for the Galilee in the Galilee itself. In my opinion this would be a very negative strategy, because the IDF is currently conducting the campaign over peace for the Galilee in southern Lebanon. If we withdraw from southern Lebanon, we will conduct that campaign in the Galilee, over the heads of the Galilee inhabitants — men, women and children.

I have great respect and attribute great importance to national unity. If I thought that by withdrawing from southern Lebanon to the international border — even if as a result Katyushas once again fell on the Galilee, and all the incidents that we remember well but would have preferred not to recall from the times that preceded the Peace for Galilee war recur — if I thought that this could restore unity among us, then I would say: Let us suffer the blows and have the casualties, but let us go through this united; let us pull out and solve that problem later. How? That is another question. But you are asking me about now: If I thought the above scenario would actually develop, I would tell you that I would certainly take it into very serious consideration.

[Margalit] For the sake of consensus?

[Arens] Yes, I would definitely give it thought. However, in my view it will not be like that. If we withdraw from southern Lebanon, Katyushas will once again land on the Galilee — I think under the present circumstances this is a foregone conclusion — and we will again have shells falling on the Galilee. People will be hurt, and we will have the problem of who will remain in the towns and rural settlements of the Galilee. I do not think this will bring us consensus. The same people who demonstrate today will say: See, this is proof that the Peace for Galilee operation was a waste, nothing has been solved, and there is no peace in the Galilee. To me this is a wrong strategy, and it will continue to be a wrong strategy, to conduct the campaign over the Galilee in the Galilee itself. It will not result in a consensus. Therefore I think it would be a mistake even from this aspect.

[Margalit] In light of the fact that you say that our stay in Lebanon is important only for the sake of guaranteeing peace for the Galilee, and assuming that the war in Lebanon becomes one of the central themes in the election campaign, how will you present the war in Lebanon as a Likud success?

[Arens] I already addressed that question a few minutes ago. I am convinced that a government that cannot guarantee the well-being of its citizens lives on borrowed time. Let me go even further. In a country that has a government that does not secure peace for its citizens, the existence of that country is questionable. There was no peace or security for the Israeli citizens who lived in the Galilee for many years. You know that that war of attrition — which was directed at the Galilee from Lebanon — began in 1968. The Peace for Galilee operation corrected that situation and brought peace to the Galilee, eliminating the problem of the absence of civilians in the Galilee, the inability to live there. I cannot envision an alternative to this. Each one of us is heartbroken over the price we were asked to pay for this, and all of us can be clever in retrospect, engage in hindsight and point to some things that could have limited the price. Perhaps. But we can do the same about each of our other wars, too.

[Margalit] In other words, if you were defense ininister in June of 1982 you would have done the same as your predecessor?

[Arens] I do not think anyone could answer such a question. I assume that if you had asked the person who was the defense minister at that time whether he would have done precisely the same if asked to repeat the affair, I suppose he would tell you that he would have done certain things somewhat differently. I think this is true for everyone — for all our generals and defense ministers who were responsible for and bore the burden of any war.

[Margalit] But in principle, despite what you said earlier about taking consensus into consideration, and although you regard only peace for the Galilee as a objective, not arrangements in Lebanon, do you support the moves that were made, although you were not the defense minister at the time?

[Arens] I believe that the objective that the Cabinet had — to the best of my knowledge, since I was not a member of that Cabinet — was peace for the Galilee. I think there is a certain amount of confusion around this issue, because I have heard that people sometimes accuse the government, or the ministers of that time, of actually having in mind totally different objectives which we have learned are absolutely unattainable. I think there is a mistake here. I believe that the Cabinet has no goal, per se, to see a specific regime in one of our neighboring countries, to have one man replace another man in either Jordan, or Egypt, or Syria, or to have one parliamentary system replace another. We review these questions from only one angle: How does it affect Israel's security? So I think no one could argue against the premise that had there been a government in Lebanon that was not a puppet of the Syrians, but a government ready to live in peace with Israel and undertake the commitment to prevent terrorist acts against Israel, this would have been to the benefit of the Galilee, nothing else, just to the benefit of its inhabitants.

[Margalit] If that is so, one could go even farther and reach all sorts of other targets. But beyond removing the terrorists from the border, was there no target that was truly not reached?

[Arens] What do you mean by a target that was not reached?

[Margalit] Such as the arrangement in Lebanon, going so far — was that not a failure?

[Arens] I think we will do no good, or I could not enlighten you much, through a retrospective analysis of all the moves of that war. You could just as easily ask me about the war of attrition [between 1969 and 1973] in the Sinai, because there is nothing easier than to point at something in retrospect, and say that perhaps certain things should have been done differently. It is a totally different thing to prove this.

[Margalit] But the current problem is Lebanon.

[Arens] True, but our present problem is not to look back, but to look to the future, look ahead. When I analyzed this during a Knesset debate on Lebanon, I said that the eagerness of the Israeli public to investigate the past and question what was done, who did what, who said what, what the minutes reflect, who lied and who told the truth — when I try to find a comparable period in Israeli history, and we did have periods of wars as well as wars of attrition and bitter campaigns, I can only find one parallel: the period of the dispute between Ben-Gurion and Pinhas Lavon, what is called the scandal, when people probed and dissected the minutes and tried to prove who said what, who lied, and who told the truth. This is not one of the periods of which we are proud, and I believe that argument did not contribute a thing.

[Margalit] However, at present the argument is not at all theoretical, but there is the view that we are still in Lebanon today because the Cabinet cannot afford to admit that if it pulls out it will actually be admitting that it failed from the start.

[Arens] I think that anyone who brings up this argument must prove something that is far more important than the so-called psychological motives of the government in making one move and not another. If he is demanding that the IDF leave Lebanon today, at once — as some do demand — if this is truly his approach, he will have to prove that this is a correct and just demand in terms of the country's future and the security of the inhabitants of the Galilee. I think that in the election campaign — in which this question will probably be raised — there will be nothing easier than to prove and convince the Israeli public that it would be a very big mistake to think that an immediate departure from Lebanon will not bring shells and Katyushas to the north of the country, which none of us wants.

[Margalit] If that is the case, do you not think that the situation in Lebanon could prove to be one of the obstacles to the Likud's election campaign?

[Arens] I would not call it an obstacle. I think it will be a subject for discussion and debate, a legitimate subject, since it is on the agenda, and decisions will have to be made. However, regarding the opposition's demand to get out of Lebanon — I have heard the expression to get out of the Lebanese quagmire — I would be very surprised if many people in Israel were convinced that this is really the right way, and that we should return to the hard times in the Galilee in the years prior to the Peace for Galilee operation in which people had to live underground.

[Margalit] If this is so, Mr Arens, if from the viewpoint of Lebanon and the economy the Likud will have no problem convincing the people, why is the Likud afraid of early elections?

[Arens] First of all, you have said something about the economic issue without asking me; you assumed certain things.

[Margalit] Do you not think there is economic improvement?

[Arens] I believe we are taking steps in the right direction in order to, first of all, halt the flow of foreign currency from Israel, while trying to ensure that we have the foreign currency needed to activate the Israeli economy. There are encouraging signs that things are beginning to work in that direction.

[Margalit] That is, that we are on the right path?

[Arens] You are using certain slogans, and I do not want to confirm or deny. If you accept my assessment that our trade deficit is one of the most alarming signals in the Israeli economy, then we are probably on the right road to decreasing the trade deficit.

[Margalit] So if we are going in the right direction, at least in the economic sphere, and with regard to Lebanon you see no problem convincing the public — why is the Likud afraid of early elections?

[Arens] I am not afraid of early elections. That is to say, I do not think the Likud fears early elections insofar as the results are concerned.

[Margalit] So what is it?

[Arens] Let me explain: Look, elections can be held once a year, or once every 4 years, or even every month. In certain countries elections are stipulated by law as being held once every 4 years, not 3 or 2. Those who oppose early elections are not against them because of fear, but because, like me, they object to this in principle. Today it is clear that additional election campaigns and everything they entail — the tension, the enormous economic expenses, the damage to the decisionmaking process — are not good for the country. That is why, although we are in favor of a democracy and we want elections, I would say we do not want them every month, or even once a year.

We are presently undergoing a period that is not at all simple in the political-security sphere, as well as in the economic realm. I believe it would have been better to go another year without elections and allow us to handle these problems in a better manner than is possible in an election period, which evidently will be relatively long. That is why if you asked me a week ago whether it would be worthwhile to hold early elections now, I would have said no. Not because I fear them, because I believe every serious party should be prepared to face the voter at any given moment, and naturally be optimistic about the outcome.

[Margalit] Your opposition is so fierce that yesterday, although you are not a Knesset member, you were still active in a number of attempts at persuasion, going so far as to try to persuade people to agree to hold a secret ballot.

[Arens] You do not know what I tried to talk people into, and here we are stooping to deal with something which I must say is the least pleasant part of public life in Israel — namely the leaks, the rumors, and the reports.

[Margalit] Did you not try to persuade people to hold a secret ballot?

[Arens] Where did you hear that?

[Margalit] Did you not try to persuade Knesset members in talks you held with them?

[Arens] I am not in the habit of reporting to either you or anyone else about private talks I hold. I think that anyone who does that does something that is extremely grave, and almost always distorts the truth.

[Margalit] But did you support a secret ballot yesterday?

[Arens] Look, in my opinion a secret ballot — and why ask about yesterday, when I can tell you about my opinion today: There is nothing wrong with a secret ballot. We hold elections to the Knesset by secret ballot, and there are countries where elections are not secret, and one has to announce his vote. We do not do it like that. I think we must ask ourselves if we care about parliamentary rule in Israel, and Israeli democracy is entirely different, or if there is room to think that the result of a secret ballot on this issue in the Knesset could turn out different from the outcome of an open vote. I think the answer to this should be the same, and if the secret ballot yields results different from an open vote, I believe there is room for concern.

There are many MK's — and I do not know whether I can call myself an expert in predicting these results — from both sides who believed that the result of a secret ballot would be different from an open vote. If that is true we have a serious problem, and it is not at all what kind of vote should be taken, but why MK's elected on various tickets should want to vote differently in secret versus in the open.

[Margalit] But my problem, Mr Arens, is to understand why you, raised on the U.S. system, and as one who understands and likes what happens in the United States, one who talks so highly of U.S. democracy where each representative expresses his views so openly, saw nothing wrong in holding a secret ballot on this?

[Arens] In my opinion there is nothing wrong with this. I told you, the fault is that we fear that secret ballot results will be different from an open vote. Our parliamentary regime is totally different from the American one, and when we compare the two we might get confused. As you know, elections in the United States are held only once every 4 years, and it is impossible to advance them. There the representatives are elected in their constituencies, personally, which is why the principle of an open vote in the United States is that a person elected in his constituency is answerable to his constituents, and must report to them on how he votes.

He cannot even hide. In Israel people have to report and be responsible to their faction, their party. None of us was elected on a personal basis; people here are chosen according to party lists, and therefore the greatest problem is how a secret ballot would give a different result from an open ballot. This began when people started to change factions. Amnon Lynn and Yitzhaq Peretz, who were elected on the Likud's faction list, were not elected on a private basis. But by means of various enticements, by promises of seats in the next Knesset, they were moved to another faction. Once such things happen, you start to understand why a person would vote differently in secret than he would openly.

[Margalit] That is, if the other side has done things you consider wrong, then any method of achieving success in the vote is legitimate?

[Arens] No, this is not what I said. I think that secret ballots have no fault. It is a well-known fact that the ballot box is secret. Would you recommend that the vote for the Knesset be held by open ballot?

[Margalit] With all due respect, a comparison between citizens going to the ballot box and Knesset members who vote is not a very correct comparison.

[Arens] I say that the principle of a secret ballot is not wrong.

[Margalit] Even if it is meant to take advantage, as in this case, of the weakness of Knesset members, as you call it?

[Arens] If a Knesset member has weaknesses, then we will all suffer from them in many cases, not only in the event of a secret ballot. I repeat, if we want to name the problems that exist in our parliamentary regime, and there are problems, they began when there was a common assessment in the Knesset that the results of a secret ballot would be different from those of an open ballot. If such an assessment did not exist, then there would have been no room for the proposal or for arguing over the proposal.

[Margalit] Do I hear a touch of disrespect in your words for the Knesset members?

[Arens] No, there is no touch of disrespect, not for Knesset members and not for the Knesset as an establishment. I believe that there is a very serious ethical and moral fault when a man who was elected on one list, crosses to a different faction in the same term. There is no fault when a man changes his opinion; there is no fault when a man who was chosen in the Likud faction says that he no longer believes in the principles or leadership of the Likud, and then he should resign from the Knesset. This is what Hanan Porat did only recently, and I think he deserves praise. However, a person who was elected under one faction and crosses over to another faction is misusing the trust of those who voted for his faction. The people who are trying to bring him over — I have heard MK Peres say on television that MK's Yitzhaq Peretz and Amonon Lynn now form a faction, and that there is no reason why they should not be promised a place in the Knesset — I think this is a fault. I do not want to seem disrespectful toward Mr Peres, who has done much for the country of Israel, but this is a very serious fault.

[Margalit] In any event, Mr Arens, the balloting was open, and it was decided to hold early elections. Do you have any idea when the elections will be held?

[Arens] I do not know. I assume this will be a subject for negotiations. I also assume that attempts will be made to reach an agreement. I think it is desirable to reach an agreement. I do not think it is desirable to reach the decision by a majority vote, as was the case yesterday in the Knesset. We also have technical limitations, which are connected with the long period — in my opinion too long — that is necessary to prepare for the elections. I assume that as in the past, it will be 3 to 4 months before we reach the elections.

[Margalit] When do you think the elections should be held, May or June?

[Arens] I do not think they should be held before the time necessary for proper preparations, since there is nothing more important than the elections being held in a completely correct manner.

[Margalit] If from the organizational viewpoint it is possible to arrange them by May or June, do you support this?

[Arens] As far as I am concerned, if it can be done, then elections should be held early. If this cannot be done safely, then we will have to give ourselves that time which is necessary to conduct the elections correctly.

[Margalit] From your viewpoint then, the only question is an organizational one?

[Arens] Yes. The correctness of the elections, and being certain that the citizens feel that the elections are conducted in a correct way, there is nothing more important than this. This is a supreme value in the democratic makeup of this country and any country.

[Margalit] If so, why do some Likud members claim that the elections should only be held in November or October, or the end of September?

[Arens] I suggest that if you find someone who tells you he favors November, you should ask him why? I did not tell you I liked November, did I?

[Margalit] Will you also try to persuade people in Herut that it would be better to hold the elections as early as possible?

[Arens] Only a few minutes ago you asked me whether I tried to persuade any one person of something, and I told you that I will not answer you about my private conversations.

[Margalit] But what about conversations that are not private?

[Arens] You must realize that I will not hold what I tell you as a secret vis-a-vis my colleagues or friends.

[Margalit] Mr Arens, do you believe the Likud will go to the elections in its present setup, or will there be a contest over the premiership?

[Arens] You must ask those who plan to contest the job of prime minister in addition to Yitzhaq Shamir. I cannot answer this question. I am not a candidate and do not plan to run for this job. I think we will know the answer to your question in the coming weeks.

[Margalit] Is Yitzhaq Shamir your candidate?

[Arens] I supported Yitzhaq Shamir when we had to decide on the matter, when Mr Begin resigned. I think Yitzhaq Shamir has done a good job as prime minister, perhaps even a very good job. He is a sober, intelligent man who knows how to handle complex problems, which is why I believe he will be a good prime minister in the next term as well.

[Margalit] Do you think Minister Sharon, who announced that he regards himself as a candidate, stands any chance?

[Arens] I presume he thinks he does. If he makes good his word, then you should come to the Herut movement center and see for yourself exactly what his chances are.

[Margalit] But do you think there will be no competition?

[Arens] I did not say that. I do not know. The Herut movement is a democratic framework, and if one person or even seven people want to compete, there will be a contest.

[Margalit] Do you think Deputy Prime Minister David Levi could

also be a good Herut movement candidate for the premiership?

[Arens] I think he could be a good candidate; I think David Levi is someone who succeeded greatly as minister of housing and construction — and I assume that in the election campaign much will be said about what has been done in that field — and has done much in something which we may have forgotten: the times of distress in housing that Israel has undergone. Perhaps not all of us are aware of the great achievements we have made in the housing field in the period during which David Levi served as housing and construction minister. I also think he has proved his worth as deputy prime minnister. He has shown himself to be a good, reliable, and effective deputy prime minister, which is why I would say that the Likud is fortunate in that it has a number of people who could serve as good minnisters, and even good prime ministers.

[Margalit] At the time, during the earlier contest between Yitzhaq Shamir and David Levi, it was said that there were a number of other candidates who regarded Yitzhaq Shamir as the number one candidate at the moment, but the time would come when they, too, would be candidates. Your name was mentioned among those potential candidates. Do you regard yourself as a candidate, if not this time then next time?

[Arens] No, I do not regard myself as a candidate.

[Margalit] In general, do you regard competition now, before the election, as something that could be damaging to the Likud in the elections?

[Arens] I believe the elections will be held in a relatively short time. They require energetic work and great preparation. An internal competition will also take time. In this respect, it would be correct to say that it would be preferable not to have such competition. That way we would be able to invest all our resources, and all our energy, in the time left to prepare for the Knesset elections. In that sense, I assume that most of the party members would like to skip this stage, particularly since we experienced such competition not long ago. Yet in a democratic administration, as I have already told you, the possibility that competition could take place must exist, and even if there is only one man who will insist on his right to compete, no matter what his chances are, this competition must be held.

[Margalit] Mr Arens, the papers reported today that Iraq is about to get a new nuclear reactor. Does Israel have political ways of preventing the construction of a new nuclear power station in Iraq?

[Arens] I have not seen that report, and therefore do not know what type of reactor is involved. I think this is something one must find out about early, and learn what the reactor is; is it for scientific research; what is its size; who supplies it; and when will it be erected — all these must be answered before we address ourselves to the question you asked.

[Margalit] In general, in regard to what is currently happening between Iraq and Iran, and about Husayn's attitude toward joining the negotiations — or rather his negation of it and the way he talked about it in the United States: How would you define what was formerly known as the eastern front? What is our predicament vis-a-vis that front?

[Arens] What is described as the eastern front today, of course, centers around Syria; and in times of war — which we are doing everything to prevent — around the countries that might join Syria in a war against Israel. At present Syria has a large army. It has been making a tremendous effort, involving the investment of financial and human resources of extraordinary dimensions, to build up a large and strong army. Furthermore, it has declared a strategic balance as its goal, and has demanded that the Soviet Union allow it to reach a strategic balance with Israel. I would not say that there is now a strategic balance between Syria and Israel, but the Syrian Army at present is as big as the IDF. One must remember one thing, that the Syrian Army is made up of career, regular soldiers, whereas the IDF is primarily composed of reservists. We must call up our reserves before we can reach the size where the IDF can be compared numerically to the Syrian Army. The Syrian regime is controlled by a man who does not shun war, we know this. There is both the motivation and the willingness in Syria to pay the price of war, and the Army the Syrians built is also ready. Therefore we must be very alert on the eastern front.

[Margalit] But regarding the domestic problems in Syria, and the war between Iraq and Iran — does all that make our situation easier, if we consider just the political aspect of the argument over Judaea and Samaria?

[Arens] I do not understand how this is connected to the dispute over Judaea and Samaria. But in regard to Iraq, currently involved in a war with Iran, there is no doubt that if, God forbid, a war had broken out today, the Iraqis would be extremely limited in their ability to dispatch an expeditionary force. On the other hand, they have built a large army in the course of that war, which is why the possibility certainly exists that if one day that war should end, we will find that Iraq's military power is far greater than before. In this respect this could serve as a cause for concern here.

In regard to Syria, we are dealing with a totalitarian regime. It is true that there is a certain degree of disquiet or instability in Syria — which usually does not contribute toward strengthening a country — but at the same time we know, to our regret, that in totalitarian regimes sometimes domestic problems are the cause for wars outside, in an attempt to solve internal problems. Therefore we need to be alert today.

[Margalit] The reason I asked about Judaea and Samaria is because if the Arab countries' attention is currently devoted to their domestic affairs and not so much to Judaea and Samaria, perhaps this will give us a freer hand politically?

[Arens] I would not say that the Arab world has been distracted from what they call the Palestinian problem. I think their attention is still devoted to it. I believe now there is far greater awareness than before of the IDF's capability, of Israel's power, and far less optimism about the prospects of confronting us on the battlefield. These are the changes, but I would not say that the interest previously shown by countries such as Jordan and Syria, and even Egypt, in the Palestinian issue has faded.

[Margalit] So that even in this election year we will pursue the settlement campaign in Judaea and Samaria as before, or should the idea of freezing settlements now come to the fore?

[Arens] The Zionist drive has been going on for more than 100 years, and its main component has been and still is settlement. There has never been a break in the Jewish settlement of Eretz Yisra'el, even in an election year. So I would not suggest that we stop it this time in an election year.

[Margalit] Mr Arens, these days we are marking the 5th anniversary of the peace agreement with Egypt, to which you objected. When you review the situation vis-a-vis Egypt at present, would you change your opinion, or does the state of affairs today merely strengthen your convictions?

[Arens] I did not oppose peace with Egypt.

[Margalit] But you did oppose the peace agreement.

[Arens] I voted against the peace agreement, which is to say that I had reservations about the conditions stipulated in the agreement. I thought the price we paid for the agreement, considering the uncertainties connected with implementing the agreement and reaching the goal we all want — which is stable and sincere peaceful relations between Israel and Egypt — given these uncertainties, I thought that the price we paid, giving up the entire Sinai peninsula, the oil fields, the strategic depth, the military fields, and the evacuation of our settlements, was far too high.

I do not know what a poll in Israel today would indicate, asking the Israeli public to what extent their vote today would be different compared to the time of the treaty. I presume that today people in Israel are a lot less optimistic about achieving that goal of real and stable peace with Egypt. What happened in the interim years is not heartwarming, but on the other hand it does raise questions. Today it is called a cold peace. We do not see Egypt showing such great enthusiasm to maintain that true, fundamental peace which we desire. Moreover, in fact there has been a violation of the agreement in Egypt's recalling its ambassador. The fact that the Egyptians claim they recalled him for consultations only adds insult to injury and merely rubs salt on our wounds, because in the diplomatic world no one has ever heard of consultations that go on for 18 months or nearly 2 years. Thus I think no one would argue that what we received compensation for the heavy price we paid. I think we did not.

In this connection — and we talked about Lebanon earlier — we should look to the future rather than the past. Thus I tell myself and the Israeli public that we have already paid the price, although I thought the price was exorbitant, we nevertheless paid it, so today we must make every effort we are capable of to reach our final destination — the peaceful relations we would like to have.

[Margalit] What can we actually do in this state of affairs?

[Arens] Unfortunately not too much, because it takes two to tango, and without any willingness on the part of Egypt to pursue the peaceful path and develop peaceful relations, send the ambassador back, and fulfill its commitments as per the peace agreement, we can do very little.

[Margalit] So you predict that the cold peace will continue for a long time, or do you think there might even be a worsening?

[Arens] I would not like to believe this. I would like to hope that a change for the better will occur in Egypt. Of course, the opposite could also happen. The Egyptians are building up a large army, for instance, which is a cause for concern, since we do not know the reason for it. Yet right now I cannot provide an assessment, and would like to hope that they will fulfill the commitments they have undertaken, will send the ambassador back, and will return to the road of peace. Let us hope so, and in a year we will see where we stand.

[Margalit] Are there any indications of their possible readiness to send their ambassador back?

[Arens] At this stage we have observed no clue that would lead us to believe so. I think it is a well-known secret that we tried to activate the U.S. Administration in this respect. The U.S. Administration attributes great significance to peaceful relations between Israel and Egypt. To the best of my knowledge the U.S. Administration does not take a favorable view of the fact that the Egyptian ambassador has been recalled from Israel, but so far even the U.S. moves have been to no avail.

[Margalit] You met today with Ambassador Rumsfeld. Did he bring any good tidings on this?

[Arens] No, I did not discuss this subject with him.

Savidor Promises Speedy Legislation on Bill

TA261230 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor told the Alignment Knesset faction chairman that he will not extend the winter session by another week. At the same time, he promised to prevent foot-dragging during deliberations by the Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee on the specifics of the bill to dissolve the Knesset. Alignment faction Chairman Moshe Shahal quickly announced in response that the Knesset will convene every day during the recess at the demand of 30 MK's.

Meanwhile, Menahem Savidor is considering trying to bring the Alignment and Likud positions on the election date closer. Our correspondent Tzvi Yisre'eli has learned that Alignment leaders will confer with the Knesset speaker this afternoon and that after that meeting Savidor will decide whether or not to approach the Likud leaders with a suggestion that the two sides meet to discuss the date. The prime minister and the Labor Party chairman have already talked about this on the telephone this morning and set up a meeting for tomorrow afternoon. The Alignment is demanding that the Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee meet at once to begin debating the law to dissolve the Knesset. A letter on this has already been submitted to the committee.

Yitzhaq Navon Returning to Israel for Talks

TA261404 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1324 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Former President Yitzhaq Navon has confirmed that he will return to Israel tomorrow and meet with Shim'on Peres, Yitzhaq Rabin, and others to discuss his incorporation into the Labor Party's leadership. To the question of whether he would compete to be the party's candidate for premier, Navon answered:

[Begin Navon recording] Nothing has been formulated, there is no decision on that matter. I am returning to Israel to talk, to see what the picture is, and to see what is the best thing to do for the good of the party.

[Unidentified correspondent talking to Navon on the telephone] There has been talk about the fact that you may, perhaps, be given the post of minister for Jewish affairs. Is that post acceptable to you; does it seem reasonable to you?

[Navon] I want to tell you: It is clear to you that I will not answer you. I will only tell you that according to all the proposals that I have read and heard — foreign minister, education minister, minister for Jews, deputy prime minister — all of this, I am not occupied with now; it is not an issue for negotiations at the moment. [end recording]

Peres Discusses Navon Candidacy, Settlements

TA270548 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres says he does not plan to stand aside and allow former President Yitzhaq Navon to be his candidate for prime minister. Peres was speaking to party workers in Jerusalem last night. On Judaea and Samaria, the Labor Party leader said Israel should not insist that the Camp David accords are the only basis for negotiations with Jordan, but should deal in accordance with UN Resolution 242.

On settlements, Peres said it should not be in order for the Jewish people to control another nation. He did not see the settlements as an obstacle to territorial compromise. According to Peres 19,000 of the 30,000 Jews in Judaea and Samaria live near Jerusalem, or in the Jordan Valley, areas which Labor was against returning. The other 11,000, he said, could live under Arab rule in a peace agreement.

Urges Husayn To Negotiate

JN270823 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Israeli Labor Party Leader Shim'on Peres has said that he calls on King Husayn to enter peaceful negotiations with Israel on the basis of the UN Security Council Resolution 242 and not necessarily on the basis of the Camp David accords because the Jordanian king was not a party to these accords. He added that in the event of such negotiations, the real solution would not be based on an Arab or an Israeli proposal but on a third proposal that no one has mentioned. Peres called for reconsidering the Israeli settlement policy in the West Bank, because traditionally the Jewish people do not desire to rule another people against their wishes even if they have the power or time to do so.

He said that Jewish settlers in the West Bank do not prevent a regional compromise solution with the Arabs. He pointed out that 19,000 out of 30,000 settlers reside in areas adjacent to Jerusalem and the Jordanian borders, and, for security reasons the Labor Party will not agree to hand these areas over to an Arab authority. He said that the remaining 11,000 settlers can live under a non-Jewish authority similar to Arab villages that live under a non-Arab authority in Israel.

Peres made these statements during a meeting with his party's members in Jerusalem last night.

Knesset Approves Supplementary Budget

TA270521 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The Knesset last night approved a supplementary budget of 432.5 billion shekels. The bill was supported by 35 coalition members, and 30 opposition members opposed it. The bill will now be transferred to the Knesset Finance Committee for preparation for the second and third readings.

President Herzog Leaves for Visit to UK

TA270520 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] President Hayim Herzog and his wife depart this morning for London for a week-long visit to Britain. President Herzog was invited by the Israel-Britain Association. He is expected to have an audience with Queen Elizabeth II and with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Our correspondent Yosi Qoren has been told that the main purpose of the visit is to devote time to meetings and contacts with representatives of Jewish communities and organizations in Great Britain, as well as to meetings with representatives of the two large parties.

Ministers Pat, Kimche Make Secret Visit to U.S.

TA261139 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Mar 84 p 1

[Report by New York correspondent Ya'aqov Erez]

[Text] Industry and Commerce Minister Gid'on Pat; Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche; and Yoram Ziv, the chairman of the Chemicals and Phosphates Company, were in the United States yesterday for a "top secret visit." It is believed that the aim of the visit was to work out an important commercial transaction "with one of the countries in Africa or the Middle East."

Minister Pat arrived in New York on Saturday night and spent just 24 hours in the city. Kimche and Ziv arrived in New York yesterday morning aboard an El Al flight. Pat and Kimche

returned to Israel last night but Ziv intends to leave New York today.

Minister Pat told *MA'ARIV*: "I left Israel on Friday for a private visit to the United States. This brief visit has nothing to do with my Cabinet post." Asked whether he intends to hold talks with U.S. figures in Washington, Pat replied: "I am not going to Washington. I will stay in New York another 24 hours and return to Israel tomorrow."

Pat was not registered in the hotel at which he was staying, and hotel employees did not even know that an Israeli minister was there. The minister was away from the hotel all day yesterday.

David Kimche was accompanied by Elyaqim Rubinstein, the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser, but the latter's visit was not related to Kimche's lightning visit.

In New York it is believed that a commercial transaction with an African or Middle East country that has no diplomatic relations with Israel is at stake. The director general of the Foreign Ministry has acquaintances in that [last word as published] country.

Pat and Ziv apparently came to sign a commercial contract whereas Kimche served as the "liaison man." The visit by Pat and Kimche to New York was also a secret to senior personnel in the Israeli Embassy in Washington, the consulate in New York, and the Israeli economic delegation in the United States.

IDF Officer Denies Taking Secret Papers to U.S.

TA261950 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Major General Avraham Tamir has refused to return secret documents taken by him from the IDF, even though the chief of staff has contacted him several times and requested him to return the documents. This was learned by our military correspondent. General Tamir's name has been mentioned in the last few days as a member of 'Ezer Weizman's headquarters prior to the coming elections. He took the secret documents with him to Washington, where he stayed for 6 months. Preliminary details of this matter are submitted from the studio by Moshe Shlonsky:

[Shlonsky] Major General Tamir headed the national security unit that was established by Minister Ari'el Sharon when the latter was defense minister. When Minister Arens took over, he decided to dissolve this unit. General Tamir left for Washington, with official approval, where he became a research fellow of the Rand Institute. General Tamir took with him to Washington classified documents, including some classified as top secret, which had served him in his work in the national security unit. The material deals with the Lebanese war. General Tamir did not comply with requests from the office of the chief of staff for the documents to be returned, and did not return the documents throughout his stay in Washington. General Tamir this evening denied this to us, stating: I took no material, and therefore I was not asked to return any material.

During his stay in Washington, while he was still on active duty, General Tamir met for a private talk with Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali. We learned that this was a private meeting which lasted about 2 hours. The talk took place without — as is mandatory — prior permission being obtained, nor was any report made regarding its contents. General Tamir says: I did not meet for a private talk. We met in the presence of other people. I only went to greet him.

General Tamir is likely to leave the IDF in the near future. His departure was planned many months back.

Shamir Plans No Washington Trip in 'Near Future'

TA270810 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Mar 84 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Text] Replying to a question by the *DAVAR* correspondent last night, the prime minister's adviser on communications and foreign press affairs, Avi Pazner, denied that the prime minister may soon go to Washington. "There are no plans for a visit by the prime minister to Washington in the near future," Pazner told the *DAVAR* correspondent.

Iraq Indirectly Recognizes Israeli-Egyptian Treaty

TA261112 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Mar 84 p 1

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Shefi Gabay]

[Text] Iraq has indirectly recognized the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. Iraqi leaders yesterday told Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, who is visiting Baghdad, that they had found a compromise enabling Egypt's return to the Arab League that would not infringe on its international commitments, including its ties with Israel. A senior diplomatic source in Cairo told the *MA'ARIV* correspondent that in their talks with 'Ali, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan and Foreign Affairs Minister Tariq 'Aziz said that Iraq was preparing the ground for Egypt's return to the Arab League.

Shultz Meets Bethlehem Mayor, Gaza Official

TA270606 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has met with two mayors [as heard] from the territories. After the meeting, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj said he and Gaza's Rashad ash-Shawwa asked for meaningful American aid for the Arab residents of the West Bank and Gaza. He said that economic conditions in the territories are deteriorating, and Israel's policy of building settlements in the territories threatens the physical existence of the Arab population. Frayj also said that a growing number of Arabs realized that negotiations with Israel are needed in order to resolve the long-term problems of the Palestinians.

Envoy to Egypt Calls Agreement 'Stable, Firm'

TA251014 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Mar 84 p 4

[Report from Cairo by Shefi Gabay]

[Text] Moshe Sason, Israel's ambassador to Cairo, believes the idea of solving problems by peaceful means is gaining support in the Arab world. He told *MA'ARIV* that although Egypt is not carefully fulfilling or observing all the clauses in the peace agreement, particularly not when it comes to day-to-day relations, the agreement is stable and firm. He noted that on the 5th anniversary of the accord's implementation, the most important aspect of relations is the creation of an atmosphere of stronger mutual trust along with the resumption of a dialogue on various levels. He wished Egypt success in its efforts to return to the Arab fold while simultaneously maintaining normal relations with Israel. He pointed out that, in so doing, Egypt will be serving not only itself, but will also provide a model for peace in the region.

Meanwhile it has been reported that an unidentified person called the Israeli Embassy in Cairo to warn that a bomb had been placed there. Security men there searched the area and did not find anything. The embassy spokesman told *MA'ARIV* that evidently such warnings were telephoned by the same person to the embassies of the United States, Britain, and France in Cairo. He said such threats are very rare and were probably initiated by an extremist group.

Briefs

Defense Ministry Appointment — Defense Minister Moshe Arens this morning appointed Hayim Golan, the director of the Procurement and Production Administration of the Defense Ministry, as the head of the Defense Ministry mission to Europe. This was learned by our military correspondent, Shmu'el Tal. To date this mission and the IDF military attache's office in Paris were one body, headed by the military attache. Upon the appointment of Golan as head of the mission, the two bodies have now been separated. Our correspondent notes that this actually marks the last change to what former Minister Ari'el Sharon had effected at the time. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Mar 84 TA]

Egypt's Al-Hamid Speech to African Parliamentarians

NC181246 Cairo MENA in English 1220 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] Algiers, March 18 (MENA) — Egyptian People's Assembly Deputy Speaker Mukhtar 'Abd al-Hamid affirmed Egypt's firm policy vis-a-vis the Palestinian cause based on the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination witout foreign intervention.

He added that Egypt supports the right of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state in Gaza Strip and the Western Bank including Arab Jerusalem and their right to return to their homeland and receive just reparation in accordance with the United Nations resolutions.

He further said that Egypt notes the importance of starting a Palestinian-American dialogue and the resumption of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue.

He expressed hope of a simultaneous reciprocal recognition between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

He added Egypt strongly denounces Israeli practices in the occupied Arab lands since 1967, practices which run counter to peace, such as the policy of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, Gaza and Golan violate the objective of peace.

This came in Egypt's speech delivered by Mukhtar 'Abd al-Hamid today before the seventh conference of the African Parliaments Union which started its meetings on March 17.

Head of the Egyptian Parliament delegation underlined the necessity of pulling out all the foreign forces from Lebanon with the Israeli forces to the fore and the consolidation of Lebanon's legitimate authority of Lebanon.

He further called for providing a chance for national reconciliation.

On the Iraqi-Iranian war, Mr 'Abd al-Hamid expressed regret over Iran's intransigence regarding Iraq's initiative for negotiations on halting the war and called on the African Parliaments Union to urge Iran to respond to the call for peace.

Klibi Says Meeting To Precede Afro-Arab Summit

LD222359 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1607 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis, 22 Mar (SPA) — Chedli Klibi Arab League Secretary General announced that a meeting of Arab and African foreign ministers would be held in May to prepare for the second Arab-African summit conference. He said that the summit will be the culmination of work done by the two sides at the specialist council level.

In a press conference held with acting OAU Secretary General Peter Onu today, Klibi pointed out that cooperation between the two organizations is regulated and based on apparatuses that have been inactive for various reasons. Now that these reasons have been removed there have been frequent meetings and consultations and discussion of spheres of cooperation in the economic, political, financial, and cultural fields. He added that preparations are now under way for the seventh session of the permanent committee which will supervise the progress of cooperation between the two organizations which will meet periodically in Addis Ababa and Tunis.

The Arab League secretary general said that the next Arab summit will not be held before the end of 1985. He expressed his pride at the (?response) from friends in the African arena regarding cooperation between the two groupings and their support for these cooperative projects, and stressed that efforts will be focused particularly in the field of completing direct develpoment projects. He added that agreement has been reached on cooperation and coordination between the two groupings during the next UN conference on refugees due to be held in Geneva next July.

PANA, IPS Sign Cooperation Agreement

AB261745 Lagos NAN in English 1620 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Lagos, March 26 (NAN) — The PAN-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY (PANA) and the INTER PRESS SERVICE (IPS) have agreed to establish working relations based on the principles of complementarity and cooperation at a meeting in Dakar between the director-general of PANA, Mr Chiekh Ousmane Diallo, and a delegation of IPS led by the director-general, Dr Roberto Savio.

A communique issued in the Senegalese capital today at the end of the meeting, the text of which was released in Lagos, said that Mr Diallo reaffirmed that "PANA is developing its programme of multilateral cooperation and that the complementarity with other news agencies will help in the promotion of information in Africa, particularly the development on national news agencies."

Mr Diallo said that PANA "is looking for concrete steps for cooperation with IPS, whose experience may be helpful in the establishment of South-South dialogue and a new world information order."

The communique said that Dr Savio was impressed with the improvement of PANA and that "the progress of PANA is an important movement in the historical progress of giving to Africa its place in the international community and in establishing a more pluralistic and balanced system of information, which will improve the basic lack of information in Africa, not only in the world, but inside the continent itself."

Dr Savio noted that as a Third World news agency, IPS considered that the complementarity of objectives and activities with PANA made it important to study any form of possible cooperation for the success of the main ideals.

The fields covered by the cooperation agreement are exchange of information, transmission of news and training.

ALGERIA

Reportage on Visit by PLO Chairman 'Arafat

Met by Bouhara

LD261301 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Algiers this morning. He was met at the airport by Abderrazak Bouhara, member of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat in charge of foreign relations, and also with the PLO's representative in Algeria.

At the airport VIP Hall Yasir 'Arafat made a statement to newsmen:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] It is known that usually before the convening of the PNC we carry out intense contacts within our Palestinian arena to make good preparations for this National Council through consultations with all parties [words indistinct] so that our National Council can express these (?good) Palestinian relations. [words indistinct] but to prepare for the PNC.

As for the other topic, which is an important one, without any doubt you notice that there is a major Israeli-American plot against our people inside the occupied land insolently manifested by the attempts taking place within the American Congress to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Arab-Muslim Jerusalem, thus challenging the feelings of the Arab nation and the feelings of the Islamic nation and also challenging the resolutions passed by the UN Security Council about the Arabism of Jerusalem, and that Jerusalem is an indivisible part of this Arab-Islamic homeland. Moreover, there are plots for further Judaization, more sequestration of land, the establishment of settlements, and deportations from inside our occupied land, a matter that prompts us all to confront this new Israeli-American plan.

These issues will be central in the talks which I will be having with the brother president and brother officials in Algeria, in addition to a number of other issues. [end recording]

Bendjedid, Ibrahimi Meet 'Arafat

LD262035 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpt] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and FLN secretary general, received today Mr Yasir 'Arafat, the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, with the attendance of Brothers Abderrazak Bouhara, member of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee in charge of external relations, and Mohamed Bankaci, official attached to the president's office, and also Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wasir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian armed forces, Abu al-Hawl ['Abd al-Hamid Hayil], member of the PLO Executive Committee, and Abu al-'Izz, the organization's representative to Algeria.

Mr Yasir 'Arafat was also received by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Politburo and minister of foreign affairs, and they held talks.

'Arafat on Bendjedid Talks

LD271245 Algiers APS in English 1135 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Algiers 27/03/84 (APS) — "Talks I have had with President Chadli Bendjedid were positive and constructive" M. Yasir 'Arafat president of the PLO Executive Committee declared when leaving Algiers today. "The friendly talks I had with President Chadli Bendjedid and other high responsibles enables us to examine al the questions relating to the holding of the next Palestinian National Council in Algiers" he pointed out.

"We have, he said, examined also all the questions relating to the Palestinian cause and first of all Jerusalem question, imperialo-Zionist aggressions, notably manoeuvres led by the Zionist lobby within the US Congress in an attempt of transfer of the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

'Arafat Departs After Talks

LD271121 Algiers APS in English 1040 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Algiers 27/03/84 (APS) — Yasir 'Arafat, president of the PLO Executive Committee left today Algiers at the end of a 24 hour visit during which he had talks with President Chadli Bendjedid and Algerian responsibles.

Communique Issued on Talks With GDR's Fischer

LD270354 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The political talks between Brother Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Politburo and minister of foreign affairs, and his GDR opposite number, Mr Oskar Fischer, continued this morning. The talks were crowned with a press communique which pointed out that Mr Fischer was received, during his presence in our country, by President Chadli Benjedid. He also met Brothers Rabih Bitat, member of the Politburo and speaker of the National Assembly; Abderrazak Bouhara, member of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee in charge of external relations; and 'Ali O'bouzar, the minister of planning and national development.

The communique pointed out that the talks were held in an atmosphere of friendship and understanding, where the foreign ministers of the two countries reviewed the situation of the cooperation between the two countries and agreed to consolidate it within the framework of the Algerian-GDR Joint Committee.

They also studied the international issues of mutual interest. Mr Oskar Fischer addressed an invitation to Brother Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi to implement an official visit to GDR. The invitation was accepted and its date will be arranged through the diplomatic channels.

Bendjedid Receives Message From Al-Qadhdhafi

LD262028 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Brother President Chadli Bendjedid received Mr (Muhammad 'Abdallah as-Sunni), official in charge of the Brotherhood Bureau of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, at the request of the latter. Mr (as-Sunni) was carrying a message to the president from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Niger Prime Minister Algabid Arrives on Visit

LD261328 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Hamid Algabid, prime minister of the Republic of Niger, arrived in Algiers this morning on an official visit at the invitation of Abdelhamid Ibrahimi, candidate member of the Political Bureau and Prime Minister, who was at Houari Boumedienne International Airport to met Algabid, along with a number of members of the government and local authorities.

The Niger prime minister is accompanied by an important delegation. Algabid and members of his delegation will be holding talks with Abdelhamid Ibrahimi and a number of senior Algerian officials during their stay in Algeria.

Talks With Delegation Begin

LD270335 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The Algerian-Niger talks commenced this afternoon in the government palace with a one-on-one meeting between Brother Abdel Hamid Ibrahimi, alternate member of the Politburo and prime minister, and Mr Hamid Algabid, the Niger prime minister, who arrived this morning in Algeria on a 3-day official visit.

Then the talks were expanded to include the members of the two delegations. The Algerian side was represented by Brothers Abdelaziz Khellef, minister of trade, and 'Ali O'bouzar, minister of planning.

The Niger side was represented by in these talks by a delegation which consists of Ide Oumarou, minister foreign affairs and cooperation; Boukary Adji, minister of finance; Amadou Nouhou, minister of commerce and transport; Major (Tamba Boubacar), assistant chief of General Staff; the Niger ambassador to Algeria; the director of the prime minister's office, the economic adviser to the prime minister; the director of vocational training at the Ministry of Civil Service and Labor; and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

Before that, the Niger prime minister was received by President Chadli Benjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the party, with the attendence of Brothers Abdelhamid Brahimi, alternate member of the Politburo and prime minister, and Isa Ibrahim, the Algerian ambassador to Niger, from the Algerian side; and Ide Oumarou, minister of foreign Affairs; Boukary Adji, minister of finance; Amadou Nouhou, minister of commerce and transport; and the ambassador of Niger from the Niger side.

Rwandan President Habyarimana Visits, Holds Talks

LD250011 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] The Rwandan president has been in Algiers since this afternoon for a brief visit. He had private talks early this evening with President Chadli Bendjedid. In a statement made on his arrival, President Habyarimana spoke about African problems. On the subject of Western Sahara, the Rwandan president reasserted his country's support for the Polisario and the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic. On the subject of Chad he stressed that Rwanda will continue to support the efforts and attempts under way for the Chadians to meet, to sit around a table and to find solutions to their own problems. On southern Africa, President Habyarimana considered that SWAPO must continue to receive support and that the most recent attemmts must accelerate Namibia's proceeding toward independence.

Comments on Talks, Departs

LD251403 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Excerpts] President of Rwanda Habyarimana, his wife, and the accompanying delegation this morning left Algiers after paying a 1-day visit during which he had talks with President Chadli Bendjedid.

Before leaving, President Habyarimana made a statement to journalists. He discussed the talks he had with President Bendjedid. The talks dealt with issues presently preoccupying Africa, foremost the issue of Western Sahara and the issue of Chad, which could affect the OAU's future. The president of Rwanda said his talks with President Bendjedid concentrated on ways and means to ensure the success of the African summit conference. He explained that the Western Sahara issue must be settled by enabling the Sahraoui people to decide their fate and future. Regarding Chad, the president of Rwanda expressed hope that there will be no foreign intervention, and that the people of Chad will themselves take charge of rebuilding their country.

President Receives Message From Malta's Mintoff

LD262020 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Brother President received Alfred Zarb, the Maltese ambassador accredited to Algeria, on the request of the latter, who conveyed to the president a message from Maltese Prime Minister Dominic Mintoff.

LIBYA

Habre Forces Said Losing Control in Southern Chad

LD270949 Tripoli JANA in English 0833 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Bardai, Jumada Thani 23, Mar 27, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Bardai radio said tension dominated the south of Chad as the forces of renegade Habre lost control of many towns and villages in the area to the forces of the legitimate united government headed by Oueddei.

The radio said in a report broadcasted yesterday forces of National Liberation Army launched an attack on Lombou, south of Chad, in which they destroyed 10 armoured trucks, killed 77 soldiers and captured military equipment.

Meanwhile, green commandos of the Liberation Army launched an attack on (Al Douniyan), a big cotton market, and killed 7 of Habre's soldiers. It also attacked Bakourou and (Nikaba) where it killed a number of rebel forces.

The radio added that the liberation army also carried out attacks on Habre forces in (Bangjiyar Wet Logone) and inflicted heavy human and material damage on it.

'Revolutionary Forces' in UK Send Message to Leader

LD262022 Tripoli JANA in English 1814 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] London, Jumada Thani 22, March 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The revolutionary forces in the British arena confirmed its commitment to spreading the Green Book thought and to confront people's enemies, wherever they are.

They stressed in a cable sent to revolution leader that the revolutionary forces would finally settle the dispute in favour of the masses by removing obstacles hindering the people from carrying out the historical march, whereby it would possess authority, wealth and weapons.

Omani Opposition Affirms Support for Al-Qadhdhafi

LD251454 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman has sent a cable to the brother leader of the revolution. It says: We are following with profound interest the revolutionary developments in the sister Arab Sudanese region, the great victories scored by the popular revolution in the southern Sudanese region, and the extensive popular uprisings threatening to topple forever Numayri's regime in Khartoum. It is natural for the Camp David pact alliance to come to support this agent regime after they found themselves in a bad position and after the huge defeat suffered by the Reagan administration and the NATO alliance in the Lebanese arena under the fierce blows of the Lebanese national movement and through the effective participation and backing by the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, Syria, and the Palestinian revolution.

At the same time, we salute your huge revolution your great steadfastness, your firm and courageous stance by the side of the forces of the Arab and world revolutionary forces, and your challenge to world imperialism, Zionism, and reaction. We express to you in the name of the struggling Omani people and their revolution our condemnation and denunciation of the Numayri agent regime and his imperialist masters. We express to you our full and absolute support for your courageous stances against imperialism, Zionism, and their reactionary allies. The Great Al-Fatih Revolution has opened great prospects and a streadfast bastion for the Arab and world revolution. We in the Omani revolution and (?Omanis) of the Progressive National Movement affirm to you our stand shoulder to shoulder with you and our challenge together to the imperialist-reactionary assault for liberation and Arab unity of the struggling nation. March progressively forward. The Arab masses are with you until we achieve the goals of our Arab nation and its pan-Arab aspirations.

SNM Forces Reportedly Clash With Barre Army

LD240956 Tripoli JANA in English 0837 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Addis Ababa, Jumada Thani 20, March 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Forces of the Somali National Movement overran a unit of agent Barre's army, in a violent battle in the Orou Region. They captured 6 armoured trucks, a number of machine guns and military equipment.

MAURITANIA

USSR Ambassador Presents Agricultural Equipment

AB262058 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Soviet Government today presented to Mauritania some agricultural equipment at the Department of Nature Protection. The ceremony took place in the presence of the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Rural Development, Mr Diarra Mamadou; and His Excellency Ivan Spitskiy, the USSR ambassador to Nouakchott. The equipment is for combating bovine and plant pests. The Soviet ambassador to Nouakchott [words indistinct]. The Soviet Union is granting you this assistance free of charge right at the time when your country is struck by a drought which had never been heard of and which has caused an enormous threat to the people of the (Nyamar) Province. This gift comprises 45 items weighing 26 tons.

MOROCCO

'Contradictions' Seen in Haydala Referendum Remarks

LD270852 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Observers have somewhat been puzzled by the insistence of the Mauritanian president that Mauritania is neutral in the Sahara dispute and his affirmation of the policy of good

neighborliness, bearing in mind that Mauritania's recognition of the mercenaries directly contradicts the principles of neutrality and good neighborliness which are accepted in international politics.

This poses a question: What is the link between recognizing the mercenaries and holding the referendum? It is this: President Haydala told the AP reporter that in the end he was forced to take the recognition decision because Morocco was not able to arrange for holding the referendum. All that can be said about this is that Morocco has never stopped expressing its readiness to hold the referendum in the time fixed for it, 31 December 1983.

His majesty the king on various occasions stressed Morocco's readiness to hold this referendum. He also pointed out the broad efforts and numerous contacts with a large number of African leaders and with the chairman of the OAU himself. The follow-up committee fixed 31 December 1983 as a date for holding the referendum. It adopted several pertinent measures. If the committee was not able to follow up s task and if the referendum did not take place at the fixed date, the fault lies with those who tried and who are still trying by various methods to hinder the peaceful solution proposed by Morocco, which gained the support of all Africa.

Observers notice glaring contradictions in the statements of President Khouna Ould Haydala. He affirms good neighborliness but says that confidence between Mauritania and Morocco is lacking. He claims that he is playing the role of the mediator but adopts a hostile stand against one of the sides on the pretext of rescuing Algeria from its isolation in the area resulting from the end of Libyan support for the mercenaries.

What President Khouna Ould Haydala is saying about safeguarding Mauritanian sovereignty and preventing its use as a base for the attacks is at odds with the reality which Mauritania is experiencing currently. Everyone knows that the mercenaries have bases in Mauritania and that many of the attacks on the integrity of our national soil emanated from Mauritania.

Morocco has never violated Mauritania's sovereignty. Those who did so are its rulers, who permitted the mercenaries to base themselves in several regions of their country, and they are the ones who recognized the mercenaries at the expense of common history and principles of good neighborliness.

It may be recalled that the royal Moroccan units which Morocco sent to Mauritania at the request of the Mauritanian Government remained loyal to the principles which brought them to Mauritania. They never interfered in any form whatsoever in domestic issues. When the Mauritanian Government requested the withdrawal of the Moroccan units, Morocco responded by bringing its forces back to their bases in the Kingdom. Morocco has never posed nor will it ever pose a danger to the sovereignty of its neighbors. It is committed to its pledges and its keen desire not to meet Mauritania's hostile behavior in like manner. But this must not mean squandering any of its legitimate rights or not defending its territorial integrity.

Yugoslav's Remarks, Mauritanian Moves Deplored

LD232045 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Political circles have expressed surprise at statements attributed in Algiers to Dusan Dragosavac, member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, voicing support for the Algerian thesis concerning direct negotiations between Morocco and the mercenaries. Observers were surprised because Yugoslavia, as one of the states that led the Nonaligned Movement on the side of Morocco, is more aware of facts in northwestern Africa. Its leaders have long showed support for Morocco's cause and defended it in nonaligned conferences, because they are aware of the history of colonialism in the region and how it had torn up the territory of the Moroccan Kingdom.

In this respect, observers recall the initiative taken by the Belgrade conference constituting the Nonaligned Movement which backed Morocco's legitimate demands for the liquidation of Spanish colonialism from its Sahara and the return of that territory to the mother homeland. Surprised observers wonder about the meaning of the statements of the Yugoslav official in Algiers at this time, when dubious moves are being made to influence and override the realistic and just settlement adopted by all the peace-, stability-, and security-loving forces.

These dubious moves also focus on an attempt to obstruct the convening of the African summit in the Guinean capital of Conakry by making prestatements and preconditions.

After Algeria comes Mauritania, continuing its contradictory and retreating positions, and justifying its ill faith by running forward and blaming others for what is committed by the opponents of stability in Africa, in order to foil the forthcoming OAU summit.

In this respect, political observers note that Mauritania, after violating its commitments and abandoning its neutrality, has begun to work openly with its allies to undermine all the efforts made at various levels to make the conference in Conakry a conference of African concord.

SUDAN

Official Views Defense Agreement With Egypt

GF251540 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 24 Mar 84 pp 1, 30

[By *AL-ANBA'* Khartoum correspondent Ahmad Hanqah]

[Text] Sudan announced yesterday that the implementation of the joint defense agreement with Egypt is a defensive step only and not an offensive step; it also denied that the two countries will carry out any rash or irresponsible acts against innocent people.

In a statement to *AL-ANBA'*, Muhammad Khawjali Salihin, Sudanese minister of national guidance and information and official spokesman for Sudan, said that the Sudanese-Egyptian

defense agreement does not mean confronting Libya only but also covers and embraces all the Nile Valley in Sudan and Egypt.

The Sudanese minister described the Libyan raid on the city of Omdurman on 16 March as an uncovilized act. He denounced Libya's denial of the act and noted that the world's public opinion is unanimous on this matter. He said the Libya's real involvement in this act will appear sooner or later.

In reply to a question on Libya's denial of responsibility for the raid, the Sudanese minister said: The world is very small and no one can deny it. What Sudan has said has been supported by all countries. It is reasonable for all these countries to denounce this act committed by Libya.

Asked about what some Western media have reported that the raid was carried out by Sudanese opposition and that it was a purely internal act, the Sudanese minister said: Only London radio [BBC] said this during the first 2 days. All now know the real intentions of this radio since Sudan announced its new Islamic laws, he added. However, he said, the radio itself has become convinced, judging from the programs which it has broadcast on the event, and judging from the military and political advisers whose assistance the radio has sought, that this act cannot be an internal but external one. We should note here that the British Government itself denounced this aggression and this was its official stand, he said.

Asked about the possibility of Ethiopia's role in the raid, the Sudanese minister said: Sudan so far has not accused Ethiopia of the raid. Asked whether Ethiopia will probably carry out a similar raid against Sudan, particularly since it is an ally of Libya, he said he could not predict anything. However, Sudan is now more ready than at any time before to counter any possible aggression from any party whatsoever, he said.

On whether the joint Egyptian-Sudanese forces will carry out any attacks against Libya, Salihin said: We will defend the Nile Valley and will repulse any aggression. Thus, we can say we are only defending ourselves, because we in the Nile Valley are one country.

African Parliamentary Conference Condemns Raid
JN231742 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1727 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Mar (SUNA) — People's Assembly Speaker 'Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid received a cable today from Sudan's delegation to the African Parliamentary Conference in Algeria.

The cable said that the delegation submitted to the conference the question of Libya's violation of Sudanese airspace in the treacherous raid. The cable indicated that the delegations participating in the conference regretted the aggression and condemned it. A resolution calling for peaceful talks removed from conflict and confrontation was passed.

Rally in Khartoum Suburb Condemns Libyan Raid
JN231546 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Mar (SUNA) — Badr ad-Din Sulayman, first secretary of the Central Command of the SSU, addressed a popular rally this morning held by the alliance masses in Al-Jurayfat — a number of suburbs east of the national capital — welcoming the participants and praising their efforts to rebuild with their own resources the destruction caused by the enemy raid.

Sulayman described the effort of the sons of Al-Jurayfat as an example of the steadfastness of the people, their support for their revolution, and their stand against sabotage and infiltration. He also praised the firmness of the employees in the radio station and their solid stand during the Libyan air raid.

Muhammad Khojali Salihin, minister of national guidance and information, also addressed the march praising the employees of the radio station. He said that if one studio is destroyed, then the voice of Sudan will rise from the next studio. He added: We possess the abilities for technical and scientific progress to make "This Is Omdurman" rise from any corner of Sudan.

A number of inhabitants in the Al-Jurayfat area also spoke, denouncing Al-Qadhdhafi's conspiracies, stressing their rallying around the leader of the revolution, and their support for and defense of the revolution and its leader. They also stressed that their effort to rebuild what Al-Qadhdhafi had destroyed was proof that they were the sons and defenders of the state.

The masses of the alliance in Al-Jurayfat this morning organized a popular march in which a truck carrying construction material also participated. The material was for repairing the damage caused by the Libyan raid against Omdurman last Friday. The masses were chanting slogans and carrying placards denouncing Al-Qadhdhafi and his deeds, condemning terrorism, and glorifying the May revolution and its leader, President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri.

DJIBOUTI

Further Reportage on Visit by Ethiopia's Mengistu

Mengistu Assesses African Problems

EA270346 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Replying to questions by reporters at the Djibouti Palace on the cooperation between the two countries and peace in the region, Comrade Chairman Mengistu said it was the desire of both countries to conduct comprehensive cooperation at the relevant time and stated that there was no restraint to further putting this into practice. He added that all sides who act in the interests of the people have an historical obligation to handle their aims for peace and development capably, and he explained that his presence in Djibouti and President Aptidon's previous visit to Socialist Ethiopia had served as a good example and contributed greatly to this.

Replying to reporters' questions expressing concern that perhaps the lack of solution to the problems of Chad and Western Sahara up to now might become an obstacle to convening the 20th OAU summit, Comrade Chairman Mengistu said that the Chad problem in particular has severely affected the people, disclosing that the aim and efforts of the OAU is to find a peaceful solution, and stated that in this respect all that has been done up to now is not completely discouraging. He affirmed that he will continue with the effort.

Speaking on the efforts by the OAU regarding the Western Sahara, the comrade chairman said we have to solve our continent's problems ourselves and stated that a solution for this especially calls for the cooperation of the Moroccan Government.

Replying to questions on southern Africa, he pointed out that today the countries of independent Africa have a double obligation: to support a solution to the problem of southern Africa and to the fighters for independence. He disclosed that as independent countries have a right to advance their own policies, they will take steps to preserve the OAU Charter and against situations that the organization does not want. [sentence as heard]

He added that as we have an obligation to give necessary support to Namibia and in general to the struggle in southern africa, especially the serious problem inflicted on countries neighboring South Africa, it is not one that should be unnoticed. He said that [word indistinct] support has to be given to Mozambique and Angola.

Hassan, Mengistu Assess Talks

EA262134 Djibouti Domestic Service in Somali 1645 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Summary] President Mengistu Haile Mariam today ended his 4-day official visit to Djibouti. He was awarded a medal of honor by president Hassan Gouled Aptidon immediately after the signing of the joint communique. President Mengistu praised President Gouled and the people of Djibouti for the warm reception accorded him and the members of his delegation.

The people of Djibouti feel that this step you have taken is one aimed at strengthening and heightening the relations between the two countries, said Hassan. The people of Djibouti have demonstrated their happiness through the warm reception they accorded you.

Please accept the sincere message of greetings that the people of Djibouti extend to their brotherly people of Ethiopia for their continued progress and prosperity. President of Djibouti Hassan Gouled Aptidon went on to say that the efforts we have (?undertaken) need to be participated in fully by the peoples living in this region for their efforts to be realized completely. This will be our guidance as to whether these efforts have borne fruit or not in the future.

President Hassan said the medal awarded to Mengistu is in recognition of his leadership role in his country. President Mengistu praised the warm brotherly reception accorded him and members of his delegation. He expressed his appreciation at the medal, saying it illustrated the deep-rooted friendship and brotherhood between our two peoples.

Joint Communique Issued

EA262132 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpts] It has been disclosed that Ethiopia and Djibouti have agreed to strengthen relations and cooperation and to take similar stands on continental and international issues. This was disclosed in a joint communique issued in Djibouti and Addis Ababa after Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam completed his official visit to Djibouti.

In the discussions, which were held in a spirit of full and fraternal understanding, the two leaders recognized that in the current relations between the two countries, the earlier agreements entered into by the two sides are being successfully implemented. (?They) believe that this is a basis for further strengthening the development and mutual prosperity of their people.

It is (?explained) in this joint communique that President Hassan Gouled Aptidon briefed Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam on Djibouti's current socioeconomic situation. Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam expressed his appreciation to President Hassan Gouled and the people of Djibouti for Djibouti's level of development that has occurred in a short time and he affirmed that in this respect, the Government of Socialist Ethiopia will give its full support to the efforts of the Republic of Djibouti.

Briefing President Hassan on the Ethiopian revolution, the comrade chairman explained in detail the efforts of the Government and people of Socialist Ethiopia to speed up political, economic and social changes in the country and especially to establish the Ethiopian Workers Party.

Speaking on the international situation, our comrade revolutionary leader affirmed Ethiopia's sincere desire for the development of international peace and understanding and added that

in this respect, Ethiopia stands for continent-wide peace, cooperation, and development.

President Hassan expressed his desire that the people and Government of Ethiopia achieve good results in their endeavors for complete development in all fields, and thanked the comrade chairman for the detailed briefing. After assessing bilateral relations, the two leaders agreed that they were satisfied with the flourishing relations in all areas and expressed their sincere belief in the future strengthening of these relations for the benefit of the fraternal people of the two countries.

According to the joint communique, an agreement that exempts citizens of the two countries who are holders of diplomatic, service and special passports from visa formalities was signed. Apart from this, the two sides agreed to establish a joint ministerial council and an administrative commission on neighboring regions.

On the situation regarding the problem of refugees, the two sides recognized the humanity and apolitical nature of the situation and agreed that the two sides, in cooperation with the UNHCR, will pursue the program to the end, according to the agreement of the three joint committees.

Regarding the development of peace and cooperation in the Horn of Africa, the two leaders affirmed their respect for independence, territorial integrity, national dignity, and the basic principles of the OAU, the United Nations, and the Nonaligned Movement, (?which is the security for) national unity, peace, and security in the region. The two sides also affirmed their desire for joint efforts toward establishing a lasting peace in the region.

The two leaders agreed to (?coordinate) their efforts and activities in their struggle against forces who oppse the policy of close cooperation between their countries. In this respect, they agreed that the relevant government bodies of the two countries will hold regular meetings to consult and exchange ideas.

The two leaders assessed the threat posed to the peace, security, and stability of the region by the increasing military activity in the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean and called for the immediate implementation of the resolutions passed by the United Nations, OAU, and the Nonaligned Movement; and for the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea to be peaceful international sea routes and zones of peace.

The two leaders recognized their obligations toward helping Namibia and South Africa to become fully independent from colonialism in the struggle for freedom from racism and apartheid, and for socioeconomic freedom. They declared their full support for the OAU.

Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam invited President Hassan Gouled Aptidon to make an official friendly visit to Socialist Ethiopia. President Aptidon accepted the invitation, and it has been disclosed that the time of the visit will be decided in the future.

KENYA

President Moi Cautions 'Prophets of Doom'

EA261612 Nairobi KNA in English 1327 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Nairobi, March 26 — His excellency President Daniel arap Moi has cautioned prophets of doom who sow seeds of hatred and discord against the government to desist from the evil practice.

Addressing a mammoth rally at Afraha Stadium, Nakuru, the president commended wananchi [citizens] for their continued firm stand against divisive elements bent on destabilizing our solidarity. President Moi challenged the people with such evil minds to use their wealth to contribute to nation building activities through the Harambee [self-help] projects in the country.

Calling on leaders to be firmly united, the president said all Kenyans, civil servants and politicians alike, must work for one government and one country irrespective of their ethnic backgrounds.

He paid tribute to the governments of Canada, Britain, the Federal Republic of Germany, Sweden and others who have continued to assist in the expansion of electricity programmes.

The function at Afraha Stadium was attended by cabinet ministers, members of parliament, Nakuru leaders from all walks of life and senior civil servants.

SOMALIA

Mogadishu Comments on EPLF Victories Over Ethiopians

EA241552 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF] has scored significant victories over the Abyssinians: That is the topic of our commentary written by Abdullahi Hasan and read by Abdi Nur Shaykh Isaaq.

A communique released by the EPLF in Khartoum on Thursday last week once again showed the significant victories the front has scored in the bitter fighting between the liberating forces and the colonial forces of Abyssinia. In fighting that took place within and on the outskirts of the town (Kera), the EPLF fighters inflicted heavy casualties on the Abyssinian forces. The EPLF forces completely surrounded the town and at the same time liberated the areas around (Kera). All the Abyssinian forces in the area have been either killed, wounded or captured. The remnants of the Abyssinian forces stationed in the area have fled into the Republic of Sudan, said the communique. The communique by the EPLF also said that the enemy Abyssinian forces lost the town of Karora to the intrepid EPLF fighters and are now in complete control of the town and its environs.

In addition the many soldiers of the Abyssinian regime either

killed or wounded by the EPLF fighters, the gallant fighters of the EPLF captured four Russian advisers in this latest offensive, said the communique. The EPLF communique added that all the Russian advisers in the area have been pulled out to areas which the Abyssinian regime considers to be safe in order to protect their lives. This is a clear indication of the weaknesses of the Abyssinian forces in confronting the liberation forces effectively.

Opposition Forces Stage Attack on Government Troops
EA232028 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Units of the 9th General Aynanshe Division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] wing of the Somali opposition forces launched an attack on the bases of General Siad Barre's forces at (El Mudan) in Ghel Gudut region, Central Somalia.

The DFSS fighters launched the attack 20 March, and inflicted heavy casualties on the forces of the Mogadishu regime stationed at (El Mudan), which is not far from Dabad in Ghel Gudut region.

The DFSS fighters took seven prisoners from among the forces who do not know for what cause they are fighting. More details on this engagement and others will be broadcast in the future.

Other reports reaching us from the 9th General Aynanshe Division of the DFSS wing of the Somali opposition forces say 56 former soldiers of the Mogadishu regime have defected to the armed struggle spearheaded by the DFSS. The soldiers who defected to the 9th General Aynanshe Division of the DFSS wing of the Somali opposition forces all had their weapons with them.

In interviews they gave to Radio Halgan reporters they said they defected when they could no longer tolerate the maladministration and bleak future facing their homeland brought about by Dictator Siad Barre and his regime based in Mogadishu. They therefore decided to take part in the armed liberation struggle by the DFSS for the salvation of Somalia.

TANZANIA

Joint Communique Issued at End of Traore Visit
EA262009 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Dar es Salaam — Tanzania and Mali have condemned the South African regime for enhancing its apartheid policies and have called upon various countries to support South African movements struggling against the regime.

In a joint communique issued at the end of official talks between President Nyerere and President Moussa Traore of Mali, the two leaders said their countries will continue to support liberation activities until the victory of the majority is achieved. The leaders said peace and stability cannot be maintained in South Africa until the oppressive regime of the Boers brings an end to its policies of apartheid.

On the Namibian issue, the leaders called for speedy implementation of UN Resolution No 435 as this is the only way to achieve Namibia's independence. They also expressed their stand against the linkage of the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola to Namibia's independence.

During their talks, the leaders discussed the deterioration of relations between Eastern and Western countries and expressed their concern over the presence of disputes between states. The leaders also signed an agreement on cultural, technical and scientific cooperation.

The Malian president, who left today for Egypt, extended an invitation to President Nyerere to visit Mali. The date of the visit wil be announced later.

Nyerere Holds Talks With ANC's Tambo 26 March
EA261942 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Dar es Salaam: The president of the South African liberation movement, the ANC, Ndugu Oliver Tambo, today held talks with Mwalimu Nyerere on the progress of the liberation struggle in South Africa.

The talks, which lasted for more than 2 hours, were held at Mwalimu Nyrere's Msasani House in Dar es Salaam. President Nyerere, who is the chairman of the frontline states for the liberation of southern Africa, stressed Tanzania's support for the struggle by the ANC for the liberation of South Africa.

Ndugu Tambo arrived early today from Britain. According to a report from the state house, Ndugu Tambo was accompanied at the talks by ANC secretary general, Ndugu Alfred Nzo. The talks were also attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Ndugu Salim Ahmed Salim and other government officials.

The report from the state house said the talks were held in an atmosphere of understanding.

Briefs

Iranian Oil Shipment — Dar Es Salaam: Tanzania today received a shipment of 80,000 tonnes of light crude oil from Iran under an agreement signed between the two countries last August. Under the agreement the National Iranian Oil Company agreed to supply crude oil to Tanzania on commercial terms to meet a large part of its 1984 requirements. The crude oil was received by the minister for water and energy, Ndugu Al-Noor Kassum and the Iranian charge d'affaires, Mr Hoseyn Pur. [Text] [Dar Es Salaam External Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Mar 84 EA]

GHANA

Further Reportage on Events of 23 March

Evidence of Foreign Role

AB261531 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Station Commentary]

[Text] A government statement last night indicated that 10 people have been executed for their involvement in the events of Friday, 23d March 1984. They left behind 11 official deaths when they struck on June 19th, 1983. Loyal troops and civilians who were faithful to the cause of the revolution were innocently but brutally murdered. Some of the perpetrators escaped from lawful justice and succeeded in cheating the hangman and the law. But, alas, for only a time. Many of them, who cowardly jumped walls and fences and escaped by the shortest possible route to neighboring countries, later spawned and spilled rumors in this country of the great exploits and invincibility of the escapees thanks to the connivance of their internal henchmen, collaborators, and financiers. Rumors were always rife of imminent attack by these 21st Century Robin Hoods and outcasts.

Meanwhile, denials were coming out from our neighboring countries and some other foreign allies of their involvement in plans to destabilize our dear revolution. Yet, the evidence was overwhelming of foreign involvement and internal collaboration. (Kante Ademugre), a two-timer convict sentenced to death by firing squad for high treason against his state, was arrested in Accra trying to cash a check for $43,000, a figure which he was said to be peddling at 100 cedis to a dollar — a neat 4.3 million cedis for the recruitment of men for mercenary purposes against their own state.

Thanks to the patriotism of many Ghanaians and the security forces, (Kante) did not live to earn that colossal figure for the monstrous task assigned to him. Lance Corporal Sena, who harbored (Kante) during his evil mission, has recently been sentenced to life imprisonment by the public tribunal. Yet, the coward escapees continue their nefarious activities to destabilize this country. Of course, these attacks are inevitable in every revolutionary process but the unity and vigilance of the people is the perfect answer to these monstrous activities. That the two-pronged attack from Ivory Coast and Togo was to have culminated in a counterrevolutionary action on Friday night, 23d March, is no coincidence but a politically well orchestrated move. Rumors in the week had it that the budget was to have been read last Friday, 23d March, the very day all the three universities would have been in residence. A cheap way to seek support. But woe unto the evil-doers! Before they could get to the capital to effect harm, the two detachments were engaged in a confrontation with the [word indistinct] police, military, PDC [People's Defense Committee] officials. Good will always overcome evil and the so-called invincibles were arrested.

Official reports as at Sunday, 25th March 1984, indicated that 10 of the subversionists had died in the scuffle and or tried and executed. [sentence as heard] Indeed, most of them had earlier been sentenced to death in absentia for their involvement in the June 19 events. The so-called myth is broken; the alleged invincibility has clearly been exposed for what it is worth: trash and mere bunkum! But they were bound to lose from the very first day by virtue of their pride and overbearing nature mercenaries, as nation wreckers and saboteurs. The leader of the revolution promised that they would be crushed and that no leniency would be shown to them if they were caught but their haughtiness and pride blinded them. For young men like Corporal Halidu Giwa and Sergeant Malik, they and their cohorts played a dangerous game and lost and have forfeited their lives. This ought to be a good lesson to anyone who would allow himself to be misled by money and other material gains to pitch himself against the revolution because the moral weight of the ongoing revolution would crush them. The only pity is that the so-called financiers and the big men behind these plots are cowardly persons who will never dare to come out to fight lest they be captured or killed and thus abandon the comfortable lives they are living in those foreign countries, feeding fat on the money they run round the world collecting through wicked lies against the state.

What benefits would Lance Corporal Giwa, Sergeant Malik and the others have got in the face of challenges from [words indistinct] Colonel (Zanerugu), General Joshua Hamidu, Lieutenant Colonel Ekow Daniels, Captain Boakye Djan and the discredited few who are now still living far away from the firing range where Giwa and his boys have had to end? Let this be a lesson to all of us.

The economic hardship of the day is not the making of this government. If an austerity budget has to come, it would be folly to politicize it by making it seem as though the government is insensitive to the plight of the Ghanaians. Beyond every dark cloud there is a silver lining. Daylight comes only after the darkest part of the night. Ghana will fully step out of its present economic hardship if the economic program set out by the government is embraced by all of us. Unless we produce raw materials for our factories and more food for our stomachs, we cannot complain about the scarcities of today. Let us stop seeing the overthrow or change of government as a solution to our woes. The real solution is in hard and honest work of all of us as Ghanaians. We are striving for a people's government and we shall not allow anybody to stop us from achieving this goal. The enemies of the revolution will always be flushed out. Down with the detractors! Down with the subversionists! The revolution will succeed!

GDM Condemns 'Murders'

AB261735 Paris AFP in English 1724 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Lome, March 26 [AFP] — The Ghana Democratic Movement (GDM) opposed to the Accra government of Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings today issued a statement condemning the "horrible murder" of three dissident Ghanaian soldiers last friday. The GDM said in the statement sent to AFP in the Togolese capital that the three soldiers were unarmed at the time of their arrest for their role in the June 19 coup attempt last year and were quickly executed without having a chance to prove their innocence.

An official statement in Accra identified the dissidents as Lance-Corporal Halidu Gyiwah, Sergeant Malik and Corporal Martin Ajomba and said they were caught and executed by a firing squad after they had returned to Ghana from the Ivory Coast to cause chaos and confusion by attacking vital civil and military installations.

The GDM denied the allegations and said that the three should have been given a trial in which they could have answered to the government's charges, as stipulated by the law.

The GDM confirmed a Ghana radio report saying that seven other people were killed in clashes with dissident demonstrators last Friday.

The events showed the precariousness of the (Rawlings) regime and ought to drive Ghanaian patriots to work for the return of normal democratic life in Ghana, the GDM said.

Return to Regular Curfew Hours

AB261915 Accra Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The curfew hours have now been changed to the normal period of 2400 to 0430 hours.

PDC Demonstration of Support

AB262115 Accra Domestic Service in English
2000 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Members of People's Defense Committees [PDC] from various zones in the Accra district, today demonstrated through the streets of Accra in support of last weekend's execution of three notorious dissidents by firing squad. The PDCs, led by their coordinators, carried placards with inscriptions condemning and warning dissidents still alive not to return to subvert the revolution.

One of the coordinators told our correspondent George Prah, shortly after the demonstration, that so long as PDCs exist the revolution will prevail. He said by the demonstrations, the PDCs are warning all infiltrators and dissidents that the masses are wide awake. The demonstrators assured the public that their safety is guaranteed and that they should come out with any information on the whereabouts of other dissidents.

Dailies Hail Government Action

AB261648 Accra Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Press Review]

[Excerpts] Both the *PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC* and the *GHANAIAN TIMES* give extensive coverage to the defeat of the dissidents at the weekend following an army cum police confrontation against them. "Three Dissidents Are Executed," is the banner headline on the front page of the *GRAPHIC* whilst the *TIMES* makes it "Dissidents Crushed." The *GRAPHIC* also has front page pictures of Lance Corporal Halidu Giwa and Sergeant Malik just before they were executed by firing squad and some of the items found on Giwa after his arrest.

The two dailies comment on the dissidents' action. The *GRAPHIC* says the latest planned attack which was nipped in the bud by our vigilant armed forces, the police and some People's Defense Committee members has proved the leader of the revolution right in that those who are against the ongoing revolution will not stop to attack us physically and through other subtle means. The paper notes that the dissidents and their backers were hoping that Ghanaians would throw their hands up in despair at the coming budget and they would therefore have gotten themselves a palpable excuse to portray themselves as redeemers. The *GRAPHIC* writes: Ghanaians inside the country will be the first to affirm that we have been through hardships in recent times. The drought, homecoming of the repatriates and all. But after last year's budget, in the midst of the trials and tribulations, even the sceptics have seen that the desired good results are beginning to show. It is those self-exiled, selfish Ghanaians who, though we believe get the correct picture of events at home through their agents, grossly exaggerate and twist all the facts of the situation through misinformation, and the imperialists and our detractors pick on the exaggerated facts to discredit the revolution. We have come along tortuous ways since 31 December 1981 and we will not be deterred by the activities of so-called invincible dissidents. Were Giwa, Malik and their [words indistinct] who were captured invincible, the *GRAPHIC* [word indistinct]?

The puppets of imperialism and their local agents should realize that patriotic Ghanaians are more than prepared to die a little to see this revolution through. The revolution will triumph with no commitments to anyone except the people to whom it owes its ultimate success. The people of Ghana are beginning to see daily, through dawn's early light who their true friends are. Once again we commend our forces and police personnel for their external vigilance which preempted a possible bloodshed. They should keep up the fight. To the rest of Ghanaians, we urge hard work.

The *TIMES* sees in the action of the dissidents a big lesson which the paper says is that all Ghanaians must learn from the evil plans with which the dissidents had intended to disorganize the peaceful course of the national democratic process brought by the revolution. The call for vigilance and the responsibilities of security are matters which every patriotic Ghanaian must regard as a duty to himself and the nation. For if the dissidents had carried out the bastardly acts of sabotage and destruction of military and civilian facilities and installations as they had planned, the chaos, [word indistinct], the loss of lives and property that would have resulted, would have brought disaster and calamity to all. The *TIMES* concludes, we must all take the cue again from the acts of violence and destruction which the dissdents would have brought to the nation. We must all be resolved anew to close ranks, hold hands together and work for the success of the revolutionary process. We wish the Provisional National Defense Council and the security forces more success in their efforts to stamp out the source of violence in order to maintain national peace.

GUINEA

Sekou Toure Dies During Heart Surgery in U.S.

PDG Communique

AB270815 Conakry Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Communique issued by the National Political Bureau of the Guinean Democratic Party in Conakry on 27 March — read by Guinean Prime Minister Lansana Beavoguil]

[Text] People of Guinea, people of Africa, people of the world, the National Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Guinea [PDG] informs the militant and religious people of Guinea of the following tragic news:

Following a cardiovascular attack which he suffered on Thursday night, 22 March 1984, Comrade Ahmed Sekou Toure, supreme leader of the revolution, president of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea, was immediately evacuated to the Cleveland Hospital in the United States for diagnosis and treatment. The examinations revealed the existence of a large hole in the aorta, which is always fatal without immediate surgery. It was during this operation that God Almighty recalled the great revolutionary, the sincere believer, President Sekou Toure. It was 2023 GMT on Monday, 26 March 1984.

The National Political Bureau of the PDG met on Tuesday, 27 March 1984 beginning at 0200 [GMT] under the chairmanship of Comrade El-hadj Lansana Beavogui, the prime minister. The National Political Bureau, painfully touched by this tragic event, which very deeply affects the people of Guinea and all the peoples of Africa and the world, conveys to the great people of Guinea, to their party of popular revolution, the PDG, to the bereaved family of the great African who left us so suddenly and so prematurely, its very deep condolences and implores the Almighty Allah to grant the soul of the great and illustrious departed, the eternal peace of paradise.

The National Political Bureau of the PDG, under these very sad and painful circumstances, has taken the following measures:

— A 40-day period of national mourning has been proclaimed beginning this Tuesday, 27 March 1984 at 0200. During this period of national mourning, flags will fly at half mast on all buildings and at all public places.

— All forms of entertainment have been suspended throughout the republic.

— The religious people of Guinea — Muslims and Christians — are called upon to make at all places of worship — mosques, churches, temples — fervent prayers for the peaceful rest of the soul of our great comrade, the immortal Ahmed Sekou Toure, great defender of Islam, great mobilizer of the people, great combattant of struggling Africa whom the mighty Allah has just recalled.

The National Political Bureau of the PDG at this tragic moment, being very aware of the absolute necessity of defending and strengthening the enormous works of Sekou Toure, the great fighter of the popular revolution, solemnly and firmly calls on the Central Committee of the PDG, the government of the republic, each federation of the state party, each division local revolutionary authority, every headquarters of the revolutionary Armed Forces, every official and militant of the PDG, to observe a strict vigilance and an absolute determination in the carrying out of the mission of safeguarding the gains of the popular revolution. This is to ensure their increased development and to further guarantee the irreversible nature of this revolution as our commander in chief, President Ahmed Sekou Toure, always prescribed. We must show the most rigorous discipline, the discipline that has always characterized the triumphant march of our popular revolution.

Today, like yesterday, every official of the PDG, every militant of our glorious party, must remain faithful, rigorously faithful, absolutely faithful to the spirit of our popular revolution as was incarnated by our great departed comrade, the immortal Ahmed Sekou Toure. Every cadre of the revolution, every official of the state party, must remain at the post at which he is serving, ready to carry out any instructions given by the National Political Bureau of the PDG.

Heroic people of Guinea, who firmly hold their revolution in their own hands, the revolution is invincible. Ready for production, which is the criterion for the success of the revolution.

Beavogui Logical Successor

AB270955 Paris AFP in French 0924 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Dakar, 27 Mar [AFP] — The Guinean Constitution (of 10 November 1958) stipulates that in case the presidency becomes vacant, "the revolutionary government remains in power to expedite current matters until the election of a new head of state, within a maximum of 45 days" (Article 51). It is therefore the entire government that acts as president, because the Constitution makes no mention of the prime minister, a post created later, in April 1972, and entrusted to Mr Lansana Beavogui, who is also the deputy secretary general of the Democratic Party of Guinea (PDG). The real power, is in the hands of the PDG which became the state party in 1978.

The statement announcing the death of President Sekou Toure came from the National Political Bureau of the PDG which met last night under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Beavogui, according to Radio Conakry (monitored in Dakar).

Mr Lansana Beavogui, who should logically succeed Sekou Toure, is 61 years old. After studying medicine in Dakar, he returned to Conakry and ran for legislative elections in 1956, on the ballot of Sekou Toure. He was successively minister of industries, economic affairs, and foreign affairs before becoming prime minister in 1972 when this post was created.

Mr Beavogui has always been seen as one of the most faithful partisans and the closest aide of President Sekou Toure. Last year, he underwent a long medical treatment in North Korea, following a sickness whose exact nature is yet to be made known.

MALI

Communique Marks End of Moussa Traore Burundi Visit

AB261800 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The head of state is continuing his African tour. After Burundi, General Moussa Traore and his delegation this afternoon arrived in Tanzania, the second leg of this tour.

Djibril Mboj [regular announcer] was able to get in contact with our special correspondent on the telephone. Djibril, what did he have to say about the first leg of the tour?

From the telephone conversation I just had with our special correspondent Baba Daga, I gathered that the two heads of state — Colonel Jean-Baptiste Bagaza and Gen Moussa Traore signed a friendship treaty between Mali and Burundi, while their foreign ministers signed a general cooperation agreement setting up a great cooperation commission. Just before the departure of the presidential delegation from Bujumbura for Dar es Salaam, a joint communique was issued to mark the end of Gen Moussa Traore's visit to Burundi. The communique was read by Foreign Minister Alioune Blondin Beye:

[Begin recoridng] Joint communique: At the invitation of His Excellency Col Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, chairman of the National Unity and Progress Party, and president of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Gen Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Democratic Union of the Malian People and president of the Republic of Mali, paid an official visit to the Republic of Burundi from 21 to 24 March. President Moussa Traore and his delegation were given a warm and fraternal welcome from President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, the government and the people of Burundi. During his visit, the Malian president visited several socioeconomic projects in Bujumbura and the provinces, and noted the progress made by the people of Burundi under President Bagaza's leadership. Presidents Jean-Baptiste Bagaza and Moussa Traore had talks which took place in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding. The two heads of state had detailed exchange of views on bilateral issues, as well as the situation in Africa and international issues of common interest. The two heads of state noted their governments' identical views on issues raised.

On bilateral issues, Presidents Jean-Baptiste Bagaza and Moussa Traore expressed their happiness about the continued excellent relations between their two peoples and countries. The two heads of state expressed their desire to consolidate and intensify these relations in the economic, technical, scientific and cultural fields. To this end, a friendship and cooperation treaty and a general cooperation agreement between the two countries was signed.

On the situation prevailing in Chad, the two heads of state strongly deplored the persistent fratricidal conflict which is tearing up that country. The two heads of state made an urgent appeal to all Chadians to find the path for national reconciliation and a lasting solution to their problem without any external interference and within the framework of the OAU.

Concerning the situation prevailing in the northwest of the continent, the two heads of state renewed their countries' support for the SDAR, and undertook to support the implementation of Resolution 104 adopted by the 19th summit of the OAU.

Touching on the situation in southern Africa, the two heads of state reiterated their strong condemnation of the apartheid policy, the continued illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa and the latter's aggression against independent states of southern Africa. The two heads of state renewed their unflinching support for SWAPO, the authentic representative of the Namibian people, in its struggle to recover its sovereignty, and condemn any maneuvers aimed at delaying the independence of that territory. The two heads of state paid tribute to the frontline states for the sacrifices made in their resistance to the blackmailing and intimidating policy of the apatheid regime, which is aimed at forcing them to abandon the firm and courageous stand they have always adopted toward the struggle of the Namibian and South African peoples.

In the light of recent developments in southern Africa, the two heads of state stated that they are following attentively the diplomatic efforts being made by Angola and Mozambique to preserve their independence and national sovereignty, and called on OAU member states to remain vigilant until the total liberation of the Namibian people and the elimination of the apartheid policy which oppresses the South African people. [end recording]

NIGER

OAU Secretary General Leaves at End of 2-day Visit

AB262044 Paris AFP in French 1440 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Niamey, 26 Mar [AFP] — Mr Peter Onu, OAU acting secretary general, left Niamey on Monday afternoon for Lome (Togo) at the end of a 2-day "working visit" to Niger, official sources said.

Mr Onu, who is touring several African countries in preparation for the coming OAU summit scheduled to take place in Conakry (Guinea) in May, held talks this morning with General Seyni Kountche, the Niger head of state, with whom he discussed "all current burning African problems."

Mr Onu declared he is confident about the holding of the OAU summit in Conakry. It is rumored that the summit willbe postponed because of the division among the member countries over the SDAR issue. Mr Onu pointed out that it is up to the host country, Guinea, to fix the final date and decide on the invitations.

After Niger and Togo, Mr Onu is to visit Cameroon, Congo, and Zaire, successively, before returning to Addis Ababa.

NIGERIA

Support for Struggle of W. Saharan People Stressed

AB260925 Paris AFP in English 1136 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Lagos, March 25 [AFP] — Nigeria supports the struggle of the people of Western Sahara for self-determination, Foreign Minister Ibrahim Gambari has said.

However in an interview with the Nigerian news agency in Kano, northern Nigeria, Mr Gambari said that Lagos could not recognize the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic formed by the Polisario Front fighting Morocco over the former Spanish colony. This was because of Nigeria's membership of the Organization of African Unity's Western Sahara Committee, Mr Gambari said. But he added that Lagos had asked King Hassan of Morocco to show more flexibility so that a solution to the problem could be found.

The OAU Western Sahara Committee is trying to persuade the Polisario Front and Morocco to agree to a cease-fire and a referendum in the former Spanish colony in accordance with an OAU resolution.

Meanwhile, Nigerian head of state General Muhammadu Buhari said that Mr Gambari would shortly be making a tour of southern Africa's frontline states. He told the leader of the Namibian nationalist Southwest Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), Sam Nujoma, that the Namibian problem was one of the priorities of Nigeria's African policy.

Mr Nujoma arrived here with former SWAPO leader Herman Toivo Ja Toivo, recently released from jail by the South African authorities, to ask for diplomatic and moral aid from Nigeria. He said that there were attempts to erode support for southern Africa's "liberation movements" against South Africa.

Gambari Stresses Economic Situation to Ambassadors

AB250850 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] The minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, has called on Nigerian ambassadors to take into account the economic situation of the country in the discharge of their duties. The minister made the call while addressing an induction course organized by the ministry for new ambassadors at the Bagauda Lake Hotel, Kano.

On the Chadian crisis, the minister reiterated the Federal Government's determination to ensure that peace returns to Chad because, according to him, the situation in Chad might have some adverse effects on Nigeria. The appointment of the new ambassadors was made by the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari.

Bauchi Governor Calls for Religious Tolerance

AB241220 Lagos NAN in English 1125 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Bauchi, Mar 23 [NAN] — The Bauchi military governor, Brig Sani Sami, yesterday in Bauchi called for tolerance among the various religious groups in the state to forestall any religous uprising.

He told members of the Christian Association of Nigeria who called on him that the country required peace and stability in order to achieve its development plans.

The governor said that the ban on religious preaching was still in force in the state and urged religious organizations to restrict their preachings to mosques and churches.

SIERRE LEONE

President Stevens in UK for Medical Checkup

AB262056 Paris AFP in French 1727 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Abidjan, 26 Mar [AFP] — Sierra Leonean head of state Siaka Stevens — officially 78 years old, but 84 according to some sources — has been in Great Britain since Saturday for medical checkup, it was learned today from reliable sources in Freetown.

Despite rumors circulating these few days on the state of health of Mr Stevens, it is stated that the president goes to London regularly for medical checkups, and this one therefore does not have anything "unsual" about it.

Sierra Leone radio and television last Saturday night announced the departure of Mr Stevens for Great Britain for a "short vacation," and added that the first vice president, Sorie Ibrahim Koroma, was acting in his absence, as usual.

According to observers, there are periodic rumors on the state of health of Mr Stevens and on his possible abdication from power. Yet, there are no specific indications about the state of health of the Sierra Leonian president, and it is more and more apparent that if some time ago he expressed his wish to abandon his power, he has since resolutely abondoned this idea.

TOGO

Ghanaian Delegation To Discuss 'Good-Neighborliness'

AB261945 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] A Ghanaian ministerial delegation arrived in Lome this morning where it began talks with the Togolese authorities. The Ghanaian delegation is led by the secretary of foreign affairs, Obed Asamoah, and also includes Kofi Djin, secretary of internal affairs. This Ghanaian delegation is comprised ofseven people. It

met a Togolese delegation including several ministers, led by Kpotivi Tevi-Djidjogbe Lacle, member of the Political Bureau, minister of the interior and acting minister of foreign affairs.

The talks held between the Togolese and Ghanaian delegations were on good-neighborliness between Togo and Ghana and on making the Border Control Commission of both countries more dynamic.

UPPER VOLTA

Foreign Minister Diallo Receives Cuba's Malmierca

AB261045 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Comrade Isidoro Malmierca, the Cuban foreign minister who has been visiting the country for 2 days, will go to Bobo tomorrow and visit the Sogou valley.

At a dinner hosted in his honor on his arrival in our country, Comrade Arba Diallo said that the visit of the Cuban foreign minister marked the desire of the two revolutions — the Cuban and the Upper Voltan — to seal their destinies and to move resolutely on the path of genuine independence, honor, and dignity. Comrade Arba Diallo recalled among other things the signing of cooperation agreements between Cuba and Upper Volta. Such agreements, the minister said, will make it possible to establish close, strong bilateral relations between the Cuban and Upper Voltan peoples.

The Upper Voltan foreign minister also brought up important current issues, especially in regard to Latin America. In this regard he condemned the destabilizing maneuvers by international imperialism in Grenada, Nicaragua, El Salvador, as well as in Chad, Western Sahara, and Namibia.

Replying to Comrade Arba Diallo, the Cuban minister of foreign relations thanked the Upper Voltan authorities for the brotherly, revolutionary, and warm welcome accorded to him and his delegation on their arrival in Ouagadougou.

Comrade Malmierca expressed satisfaction over his talk with Comrade Thomas Sankara, whom he commended for his ideals and his struggle toward a total, genuine independence for the Upper Voltan people. Comrade Malmierca expressed the hope that the basis of the Upper Voltan-Cuban cooperation that was established in Havana would enable the two peoples to better know each other and to better consolidate their revolutions.

On the international front, the Cuban minister denounced the U.S. provocative policy of confrontation all over the world, notably in Grenada and in Europe where the Americans are maintaining the view that in installing their Pershing missiles they are contributing to the maintainance of peace in the region, whereas their major objective is, according to Comrade Malmierca, to attack the Soviet Union.

ANGOLA

No Contradiction Seen Between Cuba, RSA Accords

MB270752 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] The Government of the People's Republic of Angola does not believe there is any contradiction between the joint Cuban-Angolan declaration, issued after the visit of President dos Santos to Cuba, and the Lusaka pledges made between the Angolan and South African Governments. This was revealed by Venancio da Moura, Angolan deputy minister of foreign affairs, in Luanda yesterday morning when he was speaking to the national press media about the reactions of members of the South African Government to the contradictions between the content of the joint Cuban-Angolan declaration and the Lusaka agreement pledge.

[Begin Da Moura recording] The comrades know the content of the Havana declaration and also know the Lusaka agreement. [passage indistinct] The Angola Government regrets that the South African Government has not given proper attention to the most important part of the Havana declaration, the part referring to the restart of the gradual withdrawal of the internationalist Cuban military contingent from Angola subject to certain conditions. We all still forget [esquecemo-nos ainda que] that the above-mentioned declaration contains positions which are (?well defined) and specific references to SWAPO and ANC which are in agreement with OAU and UN resolutions. This is not a negotiable condition, and besides, it is the opinion of our government that the UN Security Council Resolution 435/78 that calls for, among other issues, the holding of fair and just elections in Namibia in which SWAPO will be allowed to participate on the same level with other political parties in that territory, and this is still the basis for the resolution of the problem of Namibia's independence. So the Angolan Government declares that there is not the slightest contradiction between the joint Cuban-Angolan declaration of the two governments on 19 March 1984 and the pledges assumed between the Angolan and the South African Governments. In consequence, the Angolan Government reiterates the validity of such pledges and once more reiterates its engagement in the practical application of the tasks given to the joint military Angola-South Africa commission. The tasks are proceeding normally in the southern part of Angola. [end recording]

SED Delegation Meets Party Members in Vige Province

AB261605 Luanda ANGOP in French 0945 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Vige, 26 Mar (ANGOP) — The SED [Socialist Unity Party of Germany] delegation which is currently continuing its visit to Vige Province (north of the country) on Wednesday conferred with members of the MPLA-Labor Party concerning the organization of state and judiciary organs in Vige.

On Thursday the SED delegation held a meeting with the local parliamentarians and authorities during which Dr Warner, a member of the German party delegation, spoke about the organization of state organs in his country (GDR), the role of the party, and its relationship with the working masses. It should be recalled that the SED party delegation has been on a visit to Angola for some time now at the invitation of the MPLA-Labor Party within the framework of an exchange of experiences with the central and local organs.

UNITA Claims Forces Captured Kwanza Sul Capital

NC271044 Paris AFP in English 1040 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] Lisbon, March 27 (AFP) — The Armed Angolan opposition UNITA said today its forces have taken the town of Novo Redondo, capital of Kwanza Sul Province.

The town, 300 kms (200 miles) south of the capital Luanda, fell on Sunday after six hours of battle, UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) said in a statement here. The operation was carried out by 5,000 UNITA men, it said.

Killed in the fighting were 500 soldiers of the Angolan Government Army, 82 Cubans, seven Soviet nationals, 12 Bulgarian foreign aid workers and five Italians, according to the communique. UNITA said it also captured 10 Portuguese aid workers, four Bulgarian technicians and 65 government soldiers.

Its casualties were 42 dead, 103 wounded and seven missing, the statement said.

Confirming that an attack was launched on Novo Redondo on Sunday, the Angolan authorities said the UNITA guerrillas had "captured several elements of the civilian population, as well as some foreign aid workers."

The official Angolan news agency, ANGOP, monitored here, said the attack against "part of the town of Novo Redondo" had caused eight dead and 40 wounded among the local population. It said the government forces killed 30 UNITA fighters and captured 12 others in the fighting.

UNITA Touts Successes, Control of 'Motherland'

MB261601 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] UNITA is and will remain a political alternative to the political power in Luanda, the sole alternative for Angola's economic recovery. In a roundtable discussion held on 26 February in the BBC studios in London, international observers of the southern Africa scene debated at length the Angolan situation.

The observers analyzed the civil war, which has been going on since 1975 when independence was declared by the MPLA in Luanda with the help of its Cuban, Russian, and East German bosses. They pointed out the state of economic decay, the disorganization of the agricultural production, the decrease in the coffee production, and the deep economic and financial crisis that is affecting the minority Luanda regime, which is involved in a war that it can never win and which requires more than 60 percent of the regime's budget to sustain the war effort.

The observers of southern Africa in the British capital also stressed that, contrary to what the pro-Soviet press has propagated, the Cuban mercenaries, far from being advisers and instructors, are the bastions of the fragile Luanda regime. They are the force behind the power. To prove this, they recalled the role played by the Cuban mercenaries in rescuing the unpopular Luanda regime in May 1977 on the occasion of the attempted coup d'etat by Nito Alves. Concerning SWAPO influence in Angola, they stressed that SWAPO is a real force in Angola and moves freely in the country. It has a large representation in Luanda, and even the MPLA is a bit afraid of SWAPO.

They stressed UNITA's successes in vast areas of Angolan territory. They quoted reports from journalists who recently visited the territory liberated by UNITA in Angola. They recalled that despite the colossal impact of the Soviet-Cuban invasion in 1976, the movement led by Dr Jonas Malheiro Savimbi was reborn from the ashes, survived, and has grown to become what is today — an organization that effectively controls two-thirds of the territory and is militarily and politically expanding to cover the whole national territory. The observers unanimously point out in conclusion that, however important the diplomatic moves to achieve peace in southern Africa, a problem will remain: the position of UNITA in the future of Angola. UNITA is and will remain a political alternative to the Luanda regime, the sole alternative for the economic recovery of Angola. Who rules in our motherland? It is us. It is us, it is us.

Savimbi Remarks on French 'War Materiel' Sales Cited

MB261530 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Comrades and compatriots, we are going to read important statements by UNITA President Jonas Malheiro Savimbi to the French daily newspaper *LE FIGARO*. UNITA's president granted an important interview to *LE FIGARO* in which he stated: We are fighting in Angola because of the Cuban presence in our country, and it is imperative that they leave.

It is a question of principle, but it is not a condition for negotiations. We are ready to negotiate from the moment the Luanda regime decides to speak with us, but the first point on the agenda to be negotiated is the withdrawal of the Cubans from our country. In the same interview, UNITA's president, Dr Savimbi, mentioned France's sale of Gazelle helicopters to the minority Luanda regime. He criticized Paris' position, saying that it would be a miscalculation for France to get involved in the selling of war materiel to Luanda, because the Angolan people, led by UNITA, are fighting for their true national independence. The interview granted by the UNITA's president to French journalist (Yves Praire) was attended by Portuguese journalist Jose Manuel Barata Feio and the journalist (Thibeault d'Orion) from the French magazine *HEBDO*. The foreign journalists visited the liberated territory of Angola. Besides their interview with UNITA's president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola, they also toured the liberated zones where they witnessed UNITA's great achievements in the political, military, and administrative fields.

This group of foreign journalists witnessed and reported on the morning of 24 January on the overunning by our forces of (Catabola), formerly Nova Sintra, in the geographic heart of Angola.

BOTSWANA

Prince Charles Arrives in Gaborone, Met by Mogwe

MB261849 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1610 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The heir to the British throne, Prince Charles, was this evening given a rousing welcome when he arrived at Gaborone airport for a visit to Botswana. The Prince of Wales, who is on the last leg of a four-nation African tour as a director of the Commonwealth Development Cooperation, CDC, was officially met at the airport by the minister of external affairs, Mr Archie Mogwe, and the British high commissioner to Botswana, Mr Wilfred Jones.

Among other dignitaries who met Prince Charles was the vice president and minister of finance and development planning, Mr Peter Mmusi, Cabinet ministers, the speaker of the National Assembly, the chief justice, members of Parliament, the mayor of Gaborone, members of the diplomatic corps, members of the public, and hundreds of flag-waving children.

While in Botswana, the prince, who has also visited Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, will inspect CDC-financed and -managed projects. This evening, the prince of Wales will attend a dinner hosted in his honor by the president, Dr Quett Masire, at State House. Tomorrow morning, the prince will visit the Gaborone Dam site and later that morning he will visit the Gaborone Secondary School.

LESOTHO

RSA Police Said 'Intimidating' Voters At Border

MB261024 Maseru Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] News agency reports from Namibia have revealed that members of the SADF are intimidating Namibian citizens with the view of forcing them not to vote for SWAPO during the forthcoming pre-independence election in that territory. The reports state that under the pretext of the so-called follow-up military action against SWAPO, South African defense personnel are rounding up villagers and intimidating them into voting for the South African-backed internal parties.

The tactics used by the SADF are similar to those used by the defunct Smith regime in Zimbabwe when Zimbabweans were intimidated by the military to vote against Patriotic Front's Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo. The Rhodesian military attempted in vain to force the people of Zimbabwe into voting for the South African-backed Bishop Abel Muzorewa.

Basotho are subjected to increasing harassment at the borders, where South African police officials ask them who they are going to vote for. Many Basotho seeking medical and other services from South Africa have been returned while holding valid travel documents. The Basotho National Party [BNP] spokesman said that this intimidation was intended to turn Basotho against the ruling party. The majority of the nation, however, continues to steadfastly support the BNP and the leadership of the party, the spokesman added.

Sixishe Says New Electoral Law To Be Introduced

MB262019 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1900 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The Lesotho minister of information and broadcasting, Mr Desmond Sixishe, says a new electoral law is to be introduced in the Lesotho National Assembly this week. In terms of the law, elections in the various constituencies can be held on different dates. This will enable the security forces to stop people from interfering with electoral processes in the coming general elections.

Addressing a political rally at (Ha Paaki) in the Maseru district, Mr Sixishe said the governments would like to ensure the safety of voters in the general elections.

MALAWI

President Receives New Zambian High Commissioner

MB231846 Blantyre Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] His excellency the life president has said that it is Malawi's desire to participate fully in the activities of SADCC [Southern African Development Coordination Conference] in order to enhance the economic development and mutual cooperation among the countries of the region. The life president was speaking at State House in Zomba today when he received letters of commission from the new Zambian high commissioner to Malawi, Mr Phillimon Lyombe.

In his speech at the occasion, the life president commended the important role the Zambian president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, played in the establishment of SADCC. He also said this was a concrete example of Zambia's efforts toward creating and promoting not only bilateral cooperation but regional cooperation as well. The life president also noted that the new Zambian envoy was beginning his duties at a time when genuine and concrete efforts are being made to bring about peace, understanding, and stability to the southern African region. He added that these efforts must be supported and encouraged.

Presenting his letters of commission, Mr Lyombe said the people of Zambia are very grateful for the material and moral support which they received and continue to receive from the life president, the party, and the people of Malawi. He said this clearly shows the true cooperation and friendship which exists between the two countries. The envoy said Zambians are aware of and at the same time very grateful for the significant and positive role played by the life president in destroying the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. He then pledged that during his tour of duty he would devote himself to further cementing the brotherly and friendly relations which already exist between the two countries.

MOZAMBIQUE

Joint Security Commission Holds First Meeting

MB261730 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1700 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The first meeting of the joint security commission set up between South Africa and Mozambique took place in Maputo today under the terms of the Nkomati accord. A press communique reveals that the Mozambique delegation was led by Colonel Sergio Vieira, deputy defense minister, and the South African delegation was led by General Coetzee, police commissioner.

At the meeting, mechanisms related to the immediate practical implementation of the tasks of the joint commission and their procedures were discussed. The commission decided that its next meeting will be held in mid-April in Pretoria.

Meeting 'Frank, Constructive'

MB261831 Maputo in English to Southern Africa
1800 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The first meeting of the Mozambique-South Africa joint security commission established under the Nkomati accord was held in Maputo today. A communique issued at the end of the meeting said the commission had discussed mechanisms related to the immediate practical realization of the commission's tasks and the rules for its internal procedure. The communique added that the meeting was held in a frank and constructive atmosphere and both sides had expressed their satisfaction over the results achieved.

PRC Supports Country's Improved Relations With RSA

MB250550 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] A message sent to our editorial newsdesk by the PRC Embassy states that the PRC Government appreciates the negotiations, the signing of the Nkomati Accord, and the improvement of relations with South Africa by Mozambique. The PRC Government believes these steps favor the struggle and building of Mozambique in conditions of peace and stability in southern Africa. We hope the Mozambique people attain greater victories in implementing the fourth congress decisions, consolidating national independence, and developing the national economy.

Country Subscribes to UN Convention on Refugees

MB261044 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] The People's Republic of Mozambique has adhered to the convention on the status of refugees. The request for membership was handed to the UN High Commissioner's office on 16 December 1983 at the UN Headquarters in New York. The convention came into effect on 15 March 1984. The current number of refugees living in Mozambique is estimated at 150, most of whom came from South Africa.

The office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, a body of the UN General Assembly, aims to ensure legal protection and material aid for refugees. Mozambique has become the 96th state to adhere to the convention on the status of refugees.

Maputo To Host Portuguese-Speaking Nations Summit

MB231905 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Maputo has been chosen as the venue of a summit meeting to be held soon by the leaders of the five African countries which have Portuguese as their official language. The aim of the summit is to discuss developments in southern Africa, and three of the countries, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, and Sao Tome, will express their support for the other two, Angola and Mozambique.

The summit was announced last weekend in Cape Verde at the end of a meeting between the president of Guinea-Bissau, Joao Bernardo Vieira, and Cape Verde's president, Aristides Pereira. The two leaders issued a joint communique expressing their support for the southern Africa peace initiative launched by Mozambique and Angola. The choice of Maputo as a venue was announced here tonight by AIM.

NAMIBIA

17 SWAPO 'Terrorists' Killed in Recent Clashes

MB261617 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Eighty-eight terrorists have been killed by the security forces since the latest SWAPO incursion. According to a statement by the Territory Force, the South African component of the Joint Monitoring Commission has been notified of the incidents. Seventeen SWAPO terrorists have been killed during the past week in several clashes with the security forces in the operation area of South-West Africa. The headquarters of the South-West Africa Territory Force has also announced in Windhoek that a West Kavango civilian was killed by SWAPO terrorists on the 16th of this month. Last week a bakkie [pickup truck] set off a landmine 25 km north of Oshakati in Ovambo but no one was injured.

Damara Council Pulls Out of MPC, To Meet SWAPO

MB261829 Windhoek Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1700 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The Central Committee of the Damara Council has announced in Khorixas that subject to a final decision by the party's congress, the party will withdraw from the Multiparty Conference [MPC] as of today.

Mr Justus Garoeb, the leader of the party, says the decision to withdraw stems from the current turn of events in the MPC [words indistinct]. According to Mr Garoeb, the drawing up of a constitution by the MPC which is in conflict with the letter and spirit of the United Nations settlement plan for South-West Africa also contributed to the decision to withdraw. He says the drawing up of a constitution by the MPC is not in the interests of the territory while there are still interested parties outside the MPC.

Mr Garoeb denied that discussions have taken place between SWAPO and the Damara Council. The party, however, foresees a meeting with SWAPO shortly.

RSA Urged To Implement UN Resolution 435

MB231918 Lusaka Voice of Namibia in English 1815 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] On 31 January 1984, the prime minister of South Africa, P.W. Botha, told the South African Parliament that between March 1983 and March 1984 South Africa would have spent 1.7 billion South African rand in a desperate effort to maintain Pretoria's occupation of Namibia. Botha went on to say that many young South Africans have lost their lives in the colonial war to retain South Africa's occupation of Namibia. He further stated that South Africa also came to recognize that its illegal occupation of Namibia stands rejected by the broad masses of the Namibian people and the international community. Furthermore, Botha had admitted that because of South Africa's continued occupation of Namibia against the active opposition of the Namibian people and the demand of the international community, the threat of economic sanctions has begun to loom large over South Africa.

In the light of this, Botha also stated that South Africa was now willing to reach an agreement leading to the solution of the Namibian problem. However, apartheid South Africa has thus far refused to proceed with the implementation of the UN plan for free and fair elections leading to the independence of Namibia. For example, Pretoria has not shown the political will to agree to talks directly with SWAPO about the vital question of a cease-fire and the immediate implementation of the UN plan for the independence of Namibia. Instead of proceeding immediately with the signing of a cease-fire between SWAPO and South Africa, Pretoria has tried to camouflage its unwillingness to withdraw from Namibia behind its proposed troop withdrawal from the People's Republic of Angola.

It is very clear to us that South Africa is deliberately trying to confuse two separate issues. In the first instance the issue of South Africa's announced troop withdrawal from the People's Republic of Angola remains unsolved. South Africa's aggressive military presence in Angola is clearly in violation of Angola's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence. It must be recognized that South Africa's withdrawal from Angola does not itself constitute the solution to the Namibian problem, unless South Africa agrees to discuss in [word indistinct] a cease-fire with the other party to the armed conflict in Namibia, which is SWAPO. This is a fundamental issue in securing the genuine independence of Namibia.

South Africa [words indistinct] in her colonial war an illegal occupier of Namibia will be high then her [words indistinct]. We therefore challenge Pretoria to come forward and realize the importance of the implementation of Resolution 435 in order to end the bloodshed and restore peace in this part of our region.

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha: RSA To Continue Agreement With Angola

MB271321 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Tex:] Foreign Minister Pik Botha says South Africa will continue participation in the joint monitoring commission along with Angola. South Africa last week demanded that Angola clarify a joint statement it made with Cuban concerning SWAPO and the ANC. Botha claimed the statement ran contrary to undertakings of the agreement between Angola and South Africa, but Botha now says he's satisfied that Angola confirmed Luanda's recognition of the Lusaka agreement's validity.

Recent Accords Seen as Soviet Setbacks in Africa

MB270827 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Developments in the past few days are beginning to confirm the speculations of commentators about the extent to which international power alignments have been altered by the remolding of the framework of relations in southern Africa.

One report quotes Western analysts who believe that the Nkomati accord and the Lusaka agreement represent the most serious setback the Soviet Union has sustained in southern Africa. In one sphere at least, there is concrete evidence of this. The terrorist campaigns of Soviet proteges — SWAPO and ANC — are in trouble.

South African monitors in southern Angola have expressed satisfaction about the way in which the agreement to keep SWAPO terrorists out of the region, and hence out of South-West Africa, is being implemented. At the weekend it was officially confirmed that Mozambican forces had raided ANC houses and offices and confiscated weapons and military equipment, but such actions against the revolutionary instruments of Soviet expansionism in the region could be seen as no more than a tactical reverse.

Behind the latest assessments are the much wider implications of the agreements reached between South Africa, Mozambique, and Angola. Those agreements are seen as having been precipitated essentially by the desperate economic straits and resultant political instability of those countries, and their recognition that the only way out lay through South Africa and the West. Thus the Soviet Union faces in much of Africa a diplomatic backlash of disillusionment caused by its own inability to provide effective aid to its chief allies in southern Africa.

Angola represented a breakthrough for the Kremlin in southern Africa. For the first time it was able to establish an important military foothold in the region, and in doing so injected, in the words of the American secretary of state, Mr George Shultz, an East-West dimension into regional conflicts.

Throughout the region, governments began adjusting to the apparant shift in the power balance, but some authorities believe an erosion of Soviet ascendency has been underway for some time. Dr (Peter Vaile) of the Institute of International Affairs points to the spectacular failure of Moscow's Zimbabwe scheme, when its man, Joshua Nkomo, was unable to gain power. He believes the Soviet Union had been failing in Africa because it could not follow through on its initiatives with the economic aid needed by its new allies to break out of their poverty cycle. Elsewhere on the continent — in Ethiopia, which has got rid of 10,000 Cubans — there has been a shift towards the Western economic system.

Not long ago scenarios for southern Africa were projecting disaster: isolation of South Africa with a ring of Marxist states, supplemented with intensified terrorism from SWAPO and the ANC, and the final thrust for Soviet control of the entire mineral-rich subcontinent. It is a scenario the Reagan administration has worked ceaselessly to change.

Referring recently to the West's geopolitical stake in Africa, Mr Shultz said the United States could not stand by and do nothing while its adversaries threatened friendly states. Today, Mozambique's biggest foreign trade benefactor is the United States. It is a neat illustration of the reflection in global politics of the changing southern African situation.

SWAZILAND

8 Released Detainees Still Face Charges

MB261013 Mbabane THE SWAZI OBSERVER in English 26 Mar 84 pp 1,5

[By Donny Nxumalo, *OBSERVER* reporter]

[Excerpts] High treason charges against eight political detainees released on Friday have not been dropped, the minister of justice, Mr David Matse, said yesterday.

The eight were expected to appear before the High Court on May 7 to answer charges of high treason for allegedly plotting against

the state. They were Prince Matatazela, Princess Mncane, Mrs Senanile Nkosi, Thembi Lukhele, Princess Buyisiwe, Rev Gilbert Motsa, Mr Petros Phungwayo and Mr Samson Dlamini. The eight were expected to appear with seven other detainees still serving their detention orders. They are Beauty Hlophe, Kislon Shongwe, Chief Dambuza Lukhele, Susan Dlamini, Mrs Bonisile Bello, Mrs Mary Khanya, and Mr Africa Mhlanga.

Two other members of the royal family, Prince Sulumlomo and Prince Thunduluka, have not been charged and are still serving their detention orders.

The eight walked to freedom on Friday along with former principal secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Mr Arthur Khoza, and a former High Court judge, Mr Douglas Lukhele, after being granted clemency by Queen Regent Ntombi.

Speaking from his home yesterday, Mr Matse said as far as he was concerned, there has been no change of plans concerning the eight to appear before the court on May 7. "These people have been released from detention as political detainees, but nothing has been said about the charges laid against them." "You see, with the case of Mr Khoza and Mr Lukhele, it is over for them. But the eight have not had their charges dropped," Mr Matse explained.

ZAMBIA

President Discusses Escalating Commodity Prices

MB261921 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, said today that the escalating prices of essential commodities can only be reduced if Zambians take up agriculture seriously. Dr Kaunda, who was speaking after touring the Kalulushi main market, said Zambia's salvation lay in the land, as the nation's mineral assets would dwindle in the coming years. He told hundreds of Kalulushi residents that the party and its government were greatly concerned over the escalating prices of goods, but he stressed that they could only be minimized if people took to agriculture more seriously.

Dr Kaunda said the party had worked out measures to ensure that agriculture became the mainstay of the economy. He warned against laziness, saying this would only retard the nation's development process. He said there is need for all of them to put their heads together and find a solution to the problem of high prices. This can only be achieved if the party is strong.

Earlier, during his visit in the markets, prices of commodities went down more than 30 percent in all cases as the president toured the stands. President Kaunda, currently on a 10-day visit to the Copperbelt, will tomorrow morning visit (Chimyemye) market on his continued program to check against overpricing on essential commodities. Dr Kaunda will later visit (Chimyemye) ward office to look at party organization at that (?level) before touring Chloride Zambia Limited, the manufacturers and suppliers of batteries.

Warns Against Tribal Tendencies

MB261244 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, today called on Zambians to resolve their differences amicably to ensure continued peace and development in the country. He also warned Zambians to guard themselves against tribal tendencies, saying God created them to be equal. Dr Kaunda said differences of any kind would wreck the nation if not properly handled. The president was speaking in Chambeshi during the start of his 10-day tour of Copperbelt markets.

He said no difficulties were insurmountable if love and unity prevailed in the nation. He also called on Zambians to work together towards the development of the country, regardless of their tribal background. The president said it was the intention of the party to control the continious rising prices of commodities sold in all markets throughout the country.

Dr Kaunda, who is accompanied by Central Committee members Alex Shapi, Reuben Kamanga, Bob Litana, and Alex Soko, will later today visit markets in Kalulushi before addressing party, government, parastatal, and also trade union leaders in the district.

Outgoing Envoy to USSR Returns, Hails Ties

MB261859 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The outgoing Zambian ambassador to the Soviet Union, Mr Joshua Siyolwe, has hailed the warm relations that exist between Zambia and the Soviet Union. Speaking on arrival at Lusaka International Airport, Mr Siyolwe said reciprocal visits by top party leaders between Moscow and Lusaka had further strengthened the relationship between the two countries.

Mr Siyolwe, who has been ambassador to the Soviet Union for 3 years, said the exchange of visits between the two countries had also brought much understanding between the two political parties. He said Zambia, under the leadership of President Kaunda, was held in high esteem by the Soviet Union.

ZIMBABWE

Reportage on Prince Charles' 3-Day Visit

Met by Mangwende

MB241215 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Prince Charles of Britain arrived in Harare today for a 3-day visit to Zimbabwe. He was met at the airport by the minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Witness Mangwende, and the British high commissioner, Mr Martin Ewans. He is expected to pay a courtesy call on Comrade Banana today before visiting the Anderson agricultural research station in Mazoe.

Mangwende Notes 'Special' Ties

MB241244 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Witness Mangwende has hailed what he said was a special relationship between his country and Britain. Speaking at a reception at a Harare hotel for visiting Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, Mr Mangwende said the prince is a friend of Zimbabwe, adding that Zimbabwe is indeed a friend of the United Kingdom. He also said his country has a special relationship with Britain.

Diplomats say the foreign minister's comment marks the restoration of relations between the two countries. Prince Charles, making his first visit to Zimbabwe since he represented the queen at independence celebrations in 1980, earlier yesterday visited an agricultural research station north of Harare. He is on a four-nation African tour in his capacity as director of the Commonwealth Development Coporation. He has also already visited Tanzania and Zambia.

Mugabe Hosts Dinner

MB260909 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The visiting heir to the British throne, Prince Charles, was a guest of honor at a dinner given by the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, and his wife, Comrade Sally, at their official residence last night. Also present were the speaker of the House of Assembly, Comrade Didyimus Mutasa, several ministers, and members of the diplomatic corps.

Today the prince winds up his tour of Zimbabwe by visiting a farm in Norton, and the (Shimbera) Agricultural College. He flies to Botswana afterwards. Prince Charles is on a tour of four African countries, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Botswana, as the director of the Commonwealth Development Corporation. He last visited Zimbabwe at independence.

Prince Charles Commissions Plant

MB261340 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Prince Charles of Wales today commissioned the new water treatment works at the (Chibero) College of Agriculture. The new water works, which were constructed by the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources at a cost of about 1 million dollars, will supply water to the college, Sandringham Secondary School, and for the irrigation of 80 hectares of land. Earlier, the prince visited Dornington Farm in Norton. He is scheduled to leave for Botswana this afternoon.

Trade Accord With Poland Said Likely in July

MB231304 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The commercial attache in the Polish Embassy in Harare, Comrade (Malik Jugel), says a trade agreement between Zimbabwe and Poland is in its final (?stretch). Comrade (Jugel) told newsmen that Poland and Zimbabwe are likely to sign a trade accord in July. He has conferred with officials from the ministry of finance, economic planning, and development, and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce.

Today Comrade (Jugel) is expected to meet the minister of state for industry and technology, Comrade Kumbirayi Kangai.

Deputy Minister Warns Against Wage Violations

MB261238 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] The deputy minister of youth, sports, and culture, Comrade Amos Midzi, has warned some employers against violating the workers rights. Officially opening a new district office for ZANU-PF in Ruwa yesterday, Comrade Midzi said it was well-known that some workers are paid below the minimum wage and that the practice is widespread. He warned the culprits that they will be dealt with. He also called for the formation of more cooperatives and urged everyone to rally behind the ruling party.

Minister Criticizes Activities of 'Subversives'

MB260852 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] A member of the Cabinet has critized subversive elements which are bent on undermining the government. The minister of national supplies, Comrade Enos Nkala, told a rally at Sipezini near Bulawayo yesterday that the forces are also tribalistic, regionalistic, and reactionary in their outlook. Comrade Nkala cited a case in Wankie where someone in a district body was unseated to make way for an alleged dissident. He appealed to everyone to stop their subversion and concentrate on fighting the current drought and bandits.

Speaking at the same occasion, the minister of information, posts, and telecommunications, Comrade Nathan Shamuyarira, assured the people that the government will not let anyone die of starvation. He said the government is introducing a scheme under which those receiving relief food will be required to do community work such as building dams, clinics, and constructing roads.

Radio Truth Explains Goals, Refutes Critics

MB261931 (Clandestine) Radio Truth in English to Zimbabwe 0430 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Station commentary: "What Radio Truth Stands For"]

[Text] In March 1983, Radio Truth first received international recognition. This meant that we had truly arrived and achieved what we had set out to do: to be recognized as a constructive opposition and a danger to the Mugabe regime. Let us listen to a recording of a Zimbabwe Television [ZTV] news reader and a Durban-based correspondent for the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Service [ZBC], Neil Lewis, made just over a year ago on 16 March 1983:

[Begin recording][ZTV announcer] Hello. A ZBC correspondent in Durban reports that a recently established radio station beaming to Zimbabwe carries programs which are aimed at confusing the masses.

[Lewis] A correspondent of the Independent Press Club of the South Africa news agency revealed today that he had picked up the signal of a new radio station, which was beaming into Zimbabwe from a southern point. The correspondent says the new radio station, called Radio Truth, began a test transmission at 1900 last night. Because the new station was very close to the signal of Zimbabwe's Radio 4, he believed it was an obvious attempt to supplant Radio 4's broadcast with the new station signal. The radio, which has the voice of a bird as a signature tune, is hosted by a woman with an English voice. This is Neil Lewis for ZBC in Durban. [end recording] Well, there we are. That is me. Flame Lily.

There are are many misconceptions as to the origins and objectives of Radio Truth. First of all, we are not a South African radio station and do not in any way participate in alleged destabilizing tactics for the South African Government. Why is South Africa always unjustly accused of everything from the drought, to training thousands of Muzorewa's soldiers for 3 years, to sabotaging Zimbabwe Air Force planes, to blowing up the oil pipeline, right down to the price of eggs? Does the Mugabe regime dare believe that all Zimbabweans are taken in by the propaganda machine operated by them? Do they really believe that the intmidation, genocide, and mass starvation being perpetrated on the minority Matabele nation right now will go unnoticed by the rest of the world? The total government control of the media and the total press ban has gone a long way to assisting them in this objective. But as long as there is Radio Truth, a small voice in the wilderness, the truth will out.

The second misconception, that our broadcasts are aimed at the Ndebele nation, is quite incorrect. We are received almost as loudly in Manicaland as well. In fact, a transcript of this very program will be on the desk of some of our esteemed ministers by tomorrow, having been monitored in Harare, incidentally, not on the 49 meters shortwave band, as erroneously reported, but the 60 meter band on 5015 kHz. As any opposition is slowly but steadily being eliminated, Radio Truth will surely be the only voice left all too soon. With Ndabaningi Sithole living in exile in Europe, Joshua Nkomo's well-attended rallies being victimized by hatchet-wielding youth brigades, and Bishop Abel Muzorewa's isolation in detention on trumped up charges, and now Ian Smith being accused of mass murder, the stage is set for the ZANU-PF conference in August, and the one-party state elections by February 1985.

The most recent promotion we have received has been from the minister of posts and telecommunications, Comrade Nathan Shamuyarira. This is apart from an international mention during his recent abortive trip to the UK to defend the regime against the tone of his letter to Margaret Thatcher and the unexpected appearance of Christopher Sukano in London. In an interview published in *THE HERALD* on 16 March, Shamuyarira once again blames South Africa for Zimbabwe's problems. When asked whether there was any prospect of high-level negotiations between South Africa and Zimbabwe over its peace initiatives towards its black neighbors, he replied, and I quote: We have had no signal so far of any relaxation in their, South Africa's, propaganda against us and the vitriolic vituperation on Radio Truth against the government. He went on to say the South Africans broadcast a particular program targeted at a population group, the Ndebele, inside our country for the purpose of subverting it against the government; this is abominable.

How wrong he is on all counts, which we have said before! South Africa is not involved in the destabilization of Zimbabwe, and Radio Truth's purpose is not to subvert the Matabele nation. Constructive criticism and the truth should be a healthy state of affairs in any country. A clandestine radio station should not be necessary. Suppressed opposition is dangerous when driven underground, as ZANU-PF should know from experience.

If Zimbabweans are to be deprived of freedom of speech, movement, and the press, then the only way they learn about their country is by tuning in to Radio Truth. As we said at the beginning of this bulletin, today is the first anniversary of our international recognition, and we bring to you a repeat of our articles of intent to reassure you of our motives:

Radio Truth is the voice of democracy in our country. We stand shoulder to shoulder with all those people and parties who are totally opposed to Mugabe and the ZANU-PF procommunist regime. We are opposed to the one-party state Mugabe is trying to introduce into our land. We oppose the injustices and cruelties of the ZANU-PF regime. Radio Truth is the spokesman for the oppressed democratic parties in Zimbabwe, the parties which have no voice because this is denied them by the regime's state-owned news media. The staff of Radio Truth is comprised totally of Zimbabweans. We oppose a one-party state, and we oppose strongly the communist ideology which Mugabe is trying to force upon us. Neither Mugabe nor his party, ZANU-PF, have the right to force Communism or a one-party dictatorship upon Zimbabwe. The ZANU-PF regime in Zimbabwe stands accused of human rights violations, violations of the Lancaster House Agreement, and violations of the Zimbabwe Constitution. The ZANU-PF regime won the elections in 1980 because it lied to the people, and it terrorized them. Even so, without British chicanery and British connivance, ZANU-PF would not have won the election. The ZANU-PF regime in Zimbabwe was not elected freely and fairly, and even now it rules through a reign of terror. Britain has abandoned Zimbabwe now that ZANU-PF is in power. Britain does not want the embarrassment of the Zimbabwe problem hanging over its head. The plight of Zimbabwe is no longer of any interest to Britain. The only ones who will help us are ourselves. Radio Truth, the voice of all anti-ZANU-PF parties and peoples in Zimbabwe.